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Weekly audited distribution (51 weeks) to 31/12/17 - 45,229
(GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2018

Christmas Party Guide

NATIONAL EYE HEALTH WEEK
MONDAY 24TH - SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018 YOUR VISION MATTERS

PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK.

Y Bont Faen pupils recently helped empty the wishing well at Penny Farthing cafe and wine bar, which has been raising money for Marie Curie for the last 19 months - read more on page 3.

High Street nominated for top award

COWBRIDGE High Street has been shortlisted in the 'Rising Star' category of the Great British High Street Awards 2018, which recognises and celebrates high streets across the country.

The winners of Great British High Street Awards 2018, sponsored by Visa, will be announced on November 15, putting it in the running to win a £15,000 prize.

Cowbridge High Street has been shortlisted from more than 150 applications in the Rising Star category of the award, and was chosen by an independent judging panel as a one of 12 candidate streets to be shortlisted.

A spokesperson said: "The shortlisted streets will battle it out in a public vote, which accounts for 30 per cent of the final scoring, and will then have the chance to impress an expert judging panel as they seek to be crowned Britain's best.

"Those interested in taking part in the vote can visit *www.thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk* for more information.

The winning entries for both the Champion and Rising Star categories will be announced in November in London."

The bid by Cowbridge Chamber of Trade followed research that revealed what were promising signs of renewed confidence in the country's high streets despite a challenging retail environment.

A Cowbridge Chamber of trade spokeswoman told The GEM: "We are really pleased to be one of the 12 finalists out of the 120+ entries for the Great British High Street awards. This was announced on *Good Morning Britain* and is in The Times as well.

"To win the final we need everyone to get behind us and vote on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Llancarfan school latest - cabinet defers its decision

AT a meeting on Monday, the Cabinet of the Vale Council deferred a decision on the proposal to close Llancarfan Primary School and 'transfer' it to a site in Rhoose, and referred the proposal to the Council's Scrutiny Committee.

A spokesman for the 'Save Llancarfan School' campaign group told The GEM: "We welcome the decision, although we feel an opportunity was missed to decisively reject the proposal and re-work the approach in a way that meets educational needs going forward, while also being acceptable to the schools and communities most affected.

"We are confident that the current proposal does not bear up to scrutiny, given the ham-fisted way in which the whole process has been managed to date.

"There are compelling alternatives to the current proposal that have not been properly considered, and we will ensure details are shared with scrutiny committee members at the appropriate time."

Cllr Bob Penrose, the Vale Council cabinet member for learning and cultutre said: "The decision was taken at a meeting of the council's cabinet on Monday to refer the matter to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.

"We feel that this is the fairest way of considering the responses to the consultation before taking a final decision, as it gives other elected members the opportunity to consider the proposals and the responses.

"There has been a substantial response to the consultation from the community of Llancarfan and the impact on the community as well as the educational merits of the proposal need careful consideration."

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Do Vale council staff pay also for parking?'

LIKE many other residents and workers in the Vale, I will be detrimentally affected if the Vale Council goes ahead with plans to introduce parking charges across the Vale.

However, I understand the need to save money and generate revenue, and don't disagree with measures that are applied fairly and consistently to all.

May I therefore, through your pages, ask the council to confirm the following to Vale residents, something which I feel they have kept very quiet about in their announcement about parking charges:

1. Does the council currently charge its own employees and councillors for the use of car parking facilities in council-owned or council-run car parks?

2. If so, how much do employees and councillors pay for parking each day?

3. If there are currently no parking charges for employees and councillors, are there plans to introduce such charges alongside the charges being introduced for everyone else in the Vale?

4. If there are no plans to charge employees and councillors for parking, why are they being given preferential treatment over residents and others? Other councils, like Cardiff and Neath Port Talbot, have devised a system to charge their employees for parking.

5. How much revenue would the council generate if it were to charge its own employees and councillors the same for parking as it is proposing to charge residents and others?

Is this a case of 'do as I say, not as I do'?

Name and address supplied.

A thousand words

HOW depressing to see an advertisement [in recent editons of The GEM] from the Barry Biomass team saying 'hello' to us.

The unfortunate souls who live here have to endure this monstrosity in all its glory for generations to come.

Check out their website; see the picture of the woodchip storage in the 'clean power' section. If you look closely, you will see a mix of paint and bits of plastic in what is referred to as 'organic'.

I agree the timber is organic, as it is derived from a living organism; however, I disagree that paint and plastic is such.

The timber is collected from recycling centres, including that from kitchens and fencing – much of which has been treated with preservatives and contain additives such as glue.

Yet they say only woodchip that meets strict quality requirements will be used and claim there will be no harmful emissions to health or the environment, although they don't go as far as to guarantee that.

They propose to allocate funds to community projects that will benefit the town and give something back. How nice – perhaps we should be grateful for their kindness.

Somehow, I feel a bit sceptical of something that was probably part of the deal.

Maybe they should supply the town with some breathing apparatus in case it all goes horribly wrong in the future.

What we really don't need is this blot on our landscape surrounded by thousands of homes, just reminding us that the operation is signed, sealed and waiting to be delivered.

T Abery, Barry.

'Intrusive questioning is irrelevant' says reader

THE letter from correspondent Mr Geary-Andrews (The GEM, September 13) prompts me to question the irrelevant questions about ethnicity, religion, and the like, that the Vale council seems to be asking on their forms as if they were mandatory.

I recently obtained a blue disabled parking badge, and the same probing questions were asked on the application form with the instruction 'Please answer these questions with a tick.'.

I added a note to that page which I did not fill in which stated: "Issue of a car blue badge is wholly dependent on medical conditions: ethnicity, religion or morality do not apply here, unless you were intending to allow racial, religious or moral prejudice to influence the decision, which I trust not.

Anything relevant has already been stated elsewhere on this application.

Therefore, on principle, I will not answer the questions on this page in the context of this application."

The application sailed through without a hitch. I urge all applicants filling in forms for the Vale Council to take a strong stance against this intrusive probing which is totally irrelevant.

Frankly, the council needs to be reported to appropriate authorities for asking these suspiciously prejudicial questions.

Name and address supplied.

'Dog faeces clarification needed'

IF you study the fixtures on Windmill Lane playing fields, you will see that Llantwit RFC play at home every other week.

The cricket team is much the same, along with the junior teams. This means that for the majority of the week there are not any matches being played in those fields and dog owners are expected to walk around the edge of an empty field.

Most dog owners would have to keep their dogs on leads because most dogs enjoy to run and play, and are likely to wander into the empty space where games are occasionally played.

I would like to suggest that the by-law should state that these restrictions are only in place while there are matches taking place. I, like a majority of other responsible dog owners, clean up after my pets and would not contemplate allowing our dogs to run free while matches are going on.

I would be interested to ask who was responsible for the literature that was produced for this proposal, because I was under the impression that it was the council.

They say that it is not within their control as to how the rule will be implemented in each recreational area, and yet maps have been produced that make it quite clear where you can and cannot go in the playing fields with your dog.

To me, that says that they have made decisions on the control of dogs on the playing fields and an enforcement group is going to control the new by-law. The enforcers have to be paid – I doubt they will do it free of charge – so who is going to pay for this new service?

The council has assured me that it will not be coming out of their depleted budget, but someone will have to cough up – it will be us taxpayers.

In addition, responsible owners who would love to deposit their waste in a suitable dog bin, are not being helped because the bins are being removed and not replaced. I have been told that the general waste bins are to be used instead, which I do not think is a very sanitary idea.

Some of my fellow walkers have already been reprimanded for using general bins for dog waste by the staff in various recreational centres – so where do we stand?

It is a logical choice – install enough bins, and the responsible people will use them. If the council goes down the route of penny pinching, the likelihood is that the mess will be left where it is.

On the subject of dog wardens, I have been informed that it is not part of their job description to discipline anyone who allows their dogs to foul the footpaths, despite having done so in the past.

With regard to dog waste bags, some distributed by welfare societies do not fully break down, but leave minute particles that work their way through our water systems.

The only suitable bag is the type that are being supplied by refuse for waste food. They are vegetable-based and dissolve completely. If these are not available, it would be a far better policy to 'pick and flick' to deposit the waste (which is completely bio-degradable) into a deep thorn bush, out of harm's way.

Michael Brewer, St Athan.

A reader bemoans 'gender apartheid'

WELL, what a momentous year for Barry. The announcement of the end of gender apartheid for secondary education in our town could not come a day too soon.

As someone who endured a Barry Boys Comprehensive school education during the 1980s, the announcement comes as a sense of relief for future generations.

The untold damage this segregation did to our town was immense.

There were a series of factors that created this situation, but in my view bad single sex education was at the heart of the matter on a number of levels.

No doubt some students had a positive experience of their secondary education, particularly for some girls at Bryn Hafren, but from personal experience, the Barry Boys experience was anything but positive.

Glyn Pooley, Barry.

The argument against wheelie bins...

AN observation on the debate around future recycling in the Vale.

Some readers' letters favour the wheelie bins. Before you make up your mind for or against, I have a few observations to consider.

I happened to stay in Fife, Scotland for some time; they supply the households with four large wheelie bins (green, grey, blue and brown) and the weekly collection cycles are:

Week 1 green bin for plastic; week 2 blue for landfill and brown for garden and food mixed.

Week 3 grey for paper and cardboard and week 4 repeats weeks 1, 2 and 3.

These large wheelie bins for older people are hard to manage as they measure at least four foot high, so it appears that they position them in their front gardens to make life easier: four coloured bins in line, a real garden enhancement – who needs gnomes.

Another obvious danger I noted when children are walking to school is they tend to walk on the road rather than negotiate a line of bins on the pavement.

Another downside: the food is mixed in with the garden waste and it is not obligatory to place in food bags, so in the hot summer months it attracts, as well as smells, flies and wasps.

So to prevent this when they are emptied a cleaning wagon will follow the ash bin wagons and power wash your bins clean at a cost of £10 pounds a month on top of your monthly council tax.

Another rule this council applies: if the bin lid is open about an inch they will not empty it, so if somebody else lifts the bin lid you come home from work to find the bin has not been emptied.

Another downside I could see to this scheme is that the ash men have to wheel the bin to the lorry, the hoist lifts to empty it, then they drop it back on to the pavement adjacent to your property.

This takes more than double the amount of time of the present black bag system where they can collect the bags from each side of a road, which will save a considerable amount of time allowing quicker collection.

This is only my observations. You take your pick – wheelies or bags.

M Guthrie, Rhoose.

'Turn off the lights'

I CAN see Cadoxton School from my flat and occasionally lights are left on overnight or on the weekend, as was the case on September 15.

I contacted the council about this a few weeks ago and asked why they don't have movement sensor lights.

It makes sense to me as it would save the taxpayer money.

It makes me mad to see the light on every time I look out of the window.

P Hill, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL SEPTEMBER 27)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
20 Thur	03.56	7.5	16.31	7.8
21 Fri	04.59	8.1	17.24	8.4
22 Sat	05.48	8.6	18.03	8.9
23 Sun	06.26	9.1	18.42	9.3
24 Mon	06.59	9.5	19.16	9.7
25 Tues	07.32	9.8	19.48	9.9
26 Wed	08.05	10.0	20.22	10.2
27 Thur	08.37	10.1	20.53	10.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP Birmingham.

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Colwinston man (36) jailed for three years for causing death of cyclist

A TAXI driver whose vehicle ploughed into three cyclists on the A48, killing one of them, has been jailed for three years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Jack Berry, 26, a chef who died at the scene, was said to have had "the world at his feet."

Craig Gough said when he heard of Mr Berry's death: "I'm devastated."

He had been working through the night for more than 13 hours and later lied that he had taken a rest period.

Gough (36), of Hilton Farm, Colwinston, who had no previous convictions, admitted causing Mr Berry's death by dangerous driving.

Passing sentence, Judge Eleri Rees said it must have been obvious to him as he was very tired and had lost the facility to control his vehicle.

Prosecutor David Pugh said that just before sunrise on October 28, Gough's vehicle, a Skoda Octavia, struck the three cyclists between the Cowbridge bypass and Pentre Meurig.

During his shift, Gough had accepted 33 fares and was en route from Cardiff to Bridgend, where he was based.

Earlier, he had obtained a takeaway at Talbot Green and drove to Cardiff intending to play poker to obtain money for a holiday. At one point, he gave a couple in Cardiff a free lift before leaving the city at 7.04am.

Mr Berry and two others were keen cyclists who had ridden together for a year. They had met at St Hilary, had reflective clothing and were "well lit up", riding in single file.

Gough, said Mr Pugh, had an open view of the rear cyclist from 370 metres and was 15 seconds from them.

At 7.17am, the collision took place and Mr Berry, who was at the rear, was struck over the taxi. One cyclist hit a hedgerow and the other was left in the road.

They were injured and were treated in hospital.

Gough continued driving and admitted later that his car badge was damaged and he did a u-turn and returned to the scene.

A motorist carried out CPR on Mr Berry but he died at the scene and was later identified by his wife.

Death was caused by traumatic head injuries.

All the cycles were badly damaged and Gough was visibly upset.

Craig Gough.

He told the police he had been doing about 55mph and lost concentration for a few seconds. He said his first fare had been 13 hours, 37 minutes before and he had used energy drinks to stave off tiredness.

One of the cyclists, Andrew Hooker, the landlord of The Bush Inn, where Mr Berry was employed, stated that life would never be the same again. Mr Berry, he said, was loved by the staff.

After the collision, he stated he was very dazed and scared and received counselling. He once collapsed and suffered serious crying, as well as post traumatic stress disorder.

He continued, saying that his life had changed forever and added: "Jack's name will never leave us."

A school, the court heard, had been founded in Fiji by a charity in honour of Mr Berry.

Cyclist Matthew Simmonds stated that since the collision, he drank excessively and feared for his own mortality. His attention span had been affected and he had become tearful. He described it as "a life changing experience".

James Evans, for Gough, said: "This is a tragic case. He accepts he was tired and not concentrating as he should have been. He panicked immediately after but returned to the scene within a minute."

His remorse, he said, was absolutely genuine and he realised it had to be a custodial sentence.

The Judge said: "The sentence has to reflect your degree of culpability."

She pointed out that he lied about taking a rest and an aggravating feature were the injuries caused to the other cyclists.

Gough, she said, would carry his burden for the rest of his life.

He was disqualified for five and a half years and ordered to take the extended driving test.

The Judge passed her condolences to the many members of Mr Berry's family who were in court.

PC Matthew Deschoolmeester, lead collision investigator, said: "The family of Jack Berry have shown considerable strength throughout the investigation into the death of a much-loved husband, son and brother. Our thoughts remain with them at this time.

"A morning cycle ride with three friends ended in tragedy due to Craig Gough's actions. He knowingly drove while deprived of adequate sleep or rest and lost consciousness while driving in this case.

"His actions have resulted in the death of Mr Berry which has left his family and friends heartbroken.

"I hope this case sends a message to other motorists that a lapse in concentration such as from tiredness can lead to tragic circumstances such as this.

"We would also like to highlight the importance for motorists to give cyclists plenty of room while overtaking – this should be the same amount of room as they would give for overtaking a car, which is typically around 1.5m."

Wishes DO come true as cafe raises funds for charity

SCHOOLCHILDREN have helped a Cowbridge café clear out its wishing well, in aid of terminal illness charity Marie Curie (*see photo on page 1*).

Owned by the Town and Country collective, The Penny Farthing café and wine bar in the town have spent the past 19 months raising money for the charity, which provides care and support to those living with terminal illness and their families.

Pupils from Y Bont Faen Primary School visited the café and donned Marie Curie tabards to help count the funds collected from the wishing well.

Clinical nurse specialist Elaine McGleish also supported the event for Marie Curie and heard that £317.72 had been raised.

Elaine is part of a team based at the hospice, but provides support in the community across the Vale at any stage from diagnosis to end of life and bereavement if the patient is considered to have complex specialist needs.

The nurses assess, plan and evaluate the often fluctuating needs of patients and are supported by doctors and allied health professionals.

Elaine thanked all staff and customers of the Penny Farthing for their support: "The support of businesses like the Penny Farthing and their fantastic customers is vital to ensuring we can continue to deliver end of life care to people living with a terminal illness, and their families, in their own home or in one of our hospices.

"We are so grateful for the hard work of everyone involved in fundraising this fantastic amount for Marie Curie."

Mohammed El Kilany, general manager at the Penny Farthing, added: "Every year we choose a different charity of the year, and we are all aware of the good work Marie Curie does, both in the community and at the hospice in the Vale.

"We are thrilled our customers have collectively donated more than £317 to Marie Curie to help them continue their services across the area."

MP's support for 10k

ALUN Cairns MP has teamed up with race organiser, Anne Birt, to encourage more runners to enter Cowbridge 10K ahead of the annual race at the end of September.

Mr Cairns, who is a running enthusiast and has taken on seven marathons in recent years, will be taking part in the 10K race again this year.

The race will be raising money for Cancer Research UK, so they are asking everyone who is interested to sign up and support their cause.

Mr Cairns said: "I'm really looking forward to taking part in the Cowbridge 10K again this year.

"Anyone who is interested in running, please sign up and give it a go. There will be runners of all abilities taking part and it's also raising money for charity."

To sign up for Cowbridge 10K visit their website: cowbridge10k.co.uk/. It costs £15 to enter the 10K and £12 to enter the 6K.

Art Society begins new year

COWBRIDGE Art Society reconvenes on September 27 to begin a new and exciting programme of art demonstrations, lectures and assisted workshops.

The society is a group of friendly amateur artists who enjoy learning more about art in all its diverse forms.

The group will be visited by Cardiff artist and winner of the 2013 Sky Portrait Artist of the Year, Nick Lord, at its next meeting. As this is likely to be a popular evening, it would be advisable to arrive early to guarantee a seat.

The society meets in the Old Hall from 7pm to 9pm on Thursday evenings for 10 sessions each term. Meetings usually take the form of demonstrations of artistic techniques.

Over the course of the year, demonstrators cover the use of a wide range of media from watercolour and oil to pastels and acrylics. Equally diverse is the subject matter of their artworks: landscapes, seascapes, architectural scenes, still life – something to interest everyone!

In addition to demonstrations, the programme offers illustrated themed art lectures and several assisted practical workshops to develop members' artistic skills.

Members also enjoy social evenings, along with the chance to enter their work in several art competitions throughout the year.

Membership is modestly priced, given the range of activities on offer, but non-members are also welcome for a small admission fee.

If you are interested in joining Cowbridge Art Society, membership information and the new programme is available on the Society's Facebook page, *facebook.com/cowbridgeart.cas*, or simply come along on a Thursday evening.

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Parking charges 'a stealth tax' says Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade

Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade is opposed to the proposed parking charges and urge residents to have their say.

PROPOSALS by the Vale Council to introduce parking charges on council land in Llantwit Major will sound the death knell for the town's retail environment, according to the Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade (CoT).

At a CoT meeting last week, members agreed urgent action was needed as part of the current parking charges consultation process, which closes on September 28, to oppose the plans and protect the town.

Clare Ingram, chair of Llantwit Major CoT said: "The proposals put forward as part of the current Vale Council consultation on parking charges have a total disregard for the way in which Llantwit Major goes about its business.

"To introduce parking charges without increasing the parking availability in Llantwit Major is tantamount to another stealth tax on our already hard-pressed members.

"Over 97 per cent of businesses in Llantwit Major are independent. This accounts for the town's vibrancy and is to be celebrated, but parking charges will put that at risk and will backfire if introduced. Parking charges will benefit nobody other than the operators of the parking schemes themselves with not a penny going back into the town."

Local business owner Einar Fuchs, restaurant, added: "The parking charges, as proposed, would have a devastating effect on our business.

"Many businesses in Llantwit Major operate on very low margins and struggle to make ends meet. These charges would deter customers from visiting the town centre and purchasing our goods and services. The reality for many business owners would be to close down in order to cut their losses, leaving the town with many closed shops and the council with a loss of rateable income.

"Putting businesses like ours at risk of closure would have a negative effect on the rural economy as a whole and drive more and more people to out of town retail centres.

"It is important to protect town centres such as ours and with it, preserve the strong feeling of community within the small towns of the Vale. Charging for parking in the town centre would only make it harder for us to preserve our beautiful town and community."

The Chamber of Trade urges businesses and residents of Llantwit Major to make their views heard to the council before the consultation closes on September 28.

Hard copies of the strategy and survey will also available in libraries and council offices throughout the consultation.

For more information, search for 'Vale of Glamorgan Council consultations' on the internet.

AS

Hunt the scarecrow in Penllyn

THE Penllyn and Craig Penllyn Residents Association is organising a 'scarecrow hunt' on September 30, 12 noon to 4pm, starting from Penllyn Village Hall.

Spokeswoman Karen Cahn said: "Join us on a treasure hunt with a twist. You can follow the map, find the scarecrows and collect the clues to win a prize!

"We are raising money to renovate Winchfield Park Playground. Entry is £5 per family, and there will be a prize for the best scarecrow.

"For more information, email me on cahnkaren@gmail.com.In the village hall, there will be refreshments, cakes and craft stalls."

Merched y Wawr y Bontfaen

DYMA hi'n dymor newydd arnom unwaith eto.

Yn ein cyfarfod cyntaf buom yn trafod ein rhaglen am eleni gan nodi digwyddiadau pwysig y bydd angen paratoi ar eu cyfer.I ddilyn cawsom adroddiad difyr gan Delyth Davies ar benwythnos preswyl Merched y Wawr ym mhrifysgol Y Drindod Dewi Sant yn Llanbedr Pont Steffan.Yn ôl yr arfer cafwyd penwythnos llawn dop o weithgareddau diddorol a hwyliog a bwyd da.

Dilynwyd hyn gydag adroddiad Cath Thomas o'i phrofiad o'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ar ei newydd wedd ym Mae Caerdydd ym mis Awst,yn ogystal â chyflwyniad Merched y Wawr y De Ddwyrain ar y Swffragetiaid yn yr eisteddfod.Roedd yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 'agored' yn y Bae yn arbrawf arloesol a chawsom i gyd gyfle i drafod a mesur ei llwyddiant.Daeth ein cyfarfod i ben gyda phaned a chlonc.

Bydd ein cyfarfod nesaf nos Lun 15fed Hydref yn y Neuadd Lai am 7.30 yr hwyr pan fydd Elizabeth Jane Corbett o Melbourne, Awstralia yn dod atom i rannu ei phrofiad o fynd ati i ddysgu'r iaith Gymraeg.Croeso i chi ymuno â ni yn ein gweithgareddau difyr trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Cowbridge Merched y Wawr

A NEW term is upon us once more.

Our first meeting began by discussing this year's programme, noting important events that will need preparation.Delyth Davies then presented an interesting report on the MyW residential weekend at Trinity St David's University in Lampeter.

As usual the weekend was crammed with interesting and lively activities and good food.

Cath Thomas followed with an account of her experiences of the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff Bay in August, and the south east Wales members' presentation on the Suffragettes at the Eisteddfod.

The 'open' National Eisteddfod in the Bay this year was an innovative experiment and we all contributed to the discussion on its merits and challenges.To end our meeting we enjoyed a cuppa and a chat.

Our next meeting is on Monday, October 15 at the Lesser Hall at 7.30pm when Elizabeth Jane Corbett from Melbourne, Australia will join us to share her experiences oflearning to speak Welsh.

You are welcome to join us in our activities through the medium of Welsh.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

News and views from Nancy Davidge, Tynewydd, Llangan. 01656 860303.

Support for scarecrows

LLANGAN pupils are assisting in the first scarecrow hunt, taking place in Penllyne village hall on September 30.

Each year group will be designing and making a scarecrow for the hunt. This will take place between 12pm and 4pm. Entry is £5 per family. Monies raised will go towards the renovation of Winchfield Park playground.

Refreshments, cakes and craft stalls in the village hall, tickets on the door.

Saron Chapel, Treoes

A SUNDAY school will take place at Saron for children aged 3 – 15 years; as long as there are sufficient children attending, it will continue every week from 3.30pm – 4.30pm.

This will be run by Mary Johnson with the help of assistants. No charge, but coins for collection would be welcome.

High Street up for award

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The spokeswoman continued: "Voting is open until October 31 and you can place multiple votes. To vote post both #MYHIGHSTREET and #GBHSCowbridge together in the same post.

"The judges will also be coming to visit the town in due course. There is £5,000 prize money for the winning town and a lot of publicity for the traders.

Also, as part of the competition they are giving weekly prizes to customers who spend more than £10 on Visa. So far six Cowbridge customers have won the £100 and the business also receives £250.

Vale Council defends non-payment on pothole damage

A VALE resident said he is 'angry' and 'frustrated' that the Vale Council's insurer will not pay out after a car was allegedly damaged by a pothole.

This week the council told The GEM that the reasons for rejecting the claim had been fully explained to him. Steve Thompson, who lives in the Vale, said he felt 'aggrieved' that the matter had not been settled.

He explained: "Earlier this year, on April 1 at approximately 11pm, when it was raining, my daughter drove through a large pothole on Llandow industrial estate.

"The pothole was on the road that leads to the caravan park. The vehicle sustained damage to the value of approximately £150. The wheels and a tyre were damaged.

"I submitted a claim to the council on April 23 and have been informed by their insurer Zurich that they will not be covering the claim on the basis that in accordance with their records the pothole had neither been notified to them previously nor picked up on the previous inspection of January 30, 2018.

"The pothole concerned was enormous and had, we believe, been present for some time."

Mr Thompson said the road concerned has been 'peppered; with potholes for years. It was resurfaced recently.

He said: "I think it's churlish to try and wriggle out on some legal technicality."

Mr Thompson says he should be reimbursed for the claim.

"I intend to gather further evidence in relation to this claim but I think that it beggars belief that the council are looking to sidestep responsibility in relation to this road, which has been blighted for years with pot holes."

Emma Reed, Vale Council head of neighbourhood services and transport, said: "The council operates a regular programme of highway inspections in line with the 'Highway Inspection Safety Manual' and this road has been inspected in accordance with this policy.

"An issue with the highway condition in this area was first reported to the council on April 11, not by Mr Thompson but another member of the public, and a repair to the carriageway carried out the following day in line with the relevant policy.

"Despite the alleged incident happening on April 1, this matter was not reported to the council or our insurers by Mr Thompson until April 20 when he requested a claim form from the council's insurers.

"Subsequently this matter has been dealt with via the council's insurers and Mr Thompson has been made aware of the outcome and reasons for the rejection of his claim."

TC

CAOS celebrates its half century

CAOS Musical Society has started their busy Golden Jubilee season for 2018/19.

Formed in 1968 as Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society, it first took to the stage in Cowbridge Town Hall in 1969 with a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*.

Now, 50 years later, it is returning to that stage with a gala concert telling the story of the society with a selection of songs from productions and concerts that they have performed during those years.

With guest soloists and past performers there will be something for everybody.Tickets for the concert, on Friday, October 26 will be available shortly.It will be repeating the concert on October 27 at the Stewart Road Community Centre in Rhoose.

Also, it will also be returning to the stage by bringing the West End to the Vale with a production Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd-Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar* in May/June 2019.

Auditions for principal roles, stage chorus and choir will take place on Tuesday, October 2 from 7.30pm at Stewart Road Community Centre, Rhoose.For more information, go to*www.Caosmusicalsociety.co.uk*

Chris Banks

Fundraising concert to take place in town

A FUNDRAISING concert in support of Croeso Llantwit will take place on Saturday, September 29 at 7pm in Bethel Baptist Church.

Admission to the concert and interval refreshments will be free, but there will be an opportunity to make a donation to the charity on the evening.

Croeso Llantwit is a registered charity, working towards housing in Llantwit Major a family who have become refugees as a result of the conflict in Syria.

The programme will have an eclectic mix, from Mediaeval Europe and Middle Eastern folk music to the work of a Llantwit Major singer-songwriter.

There will be an opportunity to find out more about Croeso Llantwit on the evening. For more information, contact croesollantwit@gmail.com or 07513 269742.

AP

Bingo social evening

ON Thursday, October 4 Bingo will start promptly at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge followed by light refreshments.

Free entry – bring a friend!

Scout book sale

COWBRIDGE Scout group is holding its annual second hand book sale on Saturday, September 29 between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

Items include fiction (paperback and hardback), non-fiction, children's books and jigsaws and will take place at the Scout Hall (behind the cattle market).

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Local clubs show concern at Hinkley mud dumping

Campaigners gathered outside the High Court in Cardiff on Monday afternoon.

CAMPAIGNERS opposed to the dumping of mud from the seabed near Hinkley Point C at a location near the Vale coast said this week they were planning a flotilla to blockade the disposal site, *writes TIM CHAPMAN*.

On September 17 the Campaign Against Hinkley Mud Dumping sought an interim court injunction in Cardiff to halt the disposal operation which began on September 10.

The judge said EDF, the owners of Hinkley, need to clarify whether dumping mud from near the nuclear plant is covered by an environmental impact assessment (EIA).

The case was adjourned for seven days and although an injunction wasn't granted this week campaigners said they remain hopeful.

Assembly Member Neil McEvoy said campaigners want to organise a blockade of Cardiff Grounds, the site where the dredged material is being dumped.

"We want a flotilla of boats to occupy the space around the dumping site. This can be done perfectly legally. We want to mobilise people to protect the site."

EDF, Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government say the mud is safe. The Welsh Government said recently "…the material is within safe limits, poses no radiological risk to human health or the environment…"

On the other hand, Greenpeace says it does not know whether the mud is toxic or not "and therefore we support calls for more testing to be undertaken". Campaigners insist dumping should be halted until further tests have been carried out.

The ongoing controversy is a matter of concern for Vale groups, such as surf lifesaving clubs, who use the waters off the coast as part of their activities.

The chairperson of Rhoose Surf Lifesaving Club, Denise Cooper, said the quality of local waters was a prime consideration of the club and it supported those questioning the decision to allow disposal to go ahead.

She said: "The club has been patrolling and training at Fontygary Beach and Barry Island for many decades.

"Throughout our history we have always supported initiatives to improve the quality of our coastal waters. In the past we campaigned hard against sewage being released into the sea, canvassing our local councillors and MPs, which contributed towards a new sewage treatment system at Rhoose and Barry.

"We recognise how important water quality is for the health and wellbeing of our membership who develop their lifesaving skills in the sea and to that of the wider general public.

"The club is very concerned indeed when we read in the press of 'radioactive nuclear sediment' from Hinkley Power Station being dumped in the Bristol Channel waters near Cardiff and we would fully support further questions being asked of the appropriateness of the decision to do so.

"Many of our members and their parents have signed the petition calling on the Welsh Government to suspend and review the licence that allows this material to be moved from Hinkley to Cardiff."

Simon Parker, the chairman of Vale Surf Lifesaving Club, said the club had noticed more people using the sea for activities and it was vital water quality wasn't compromised.

"Naturally, as frequent users of the sea at Jackson's Bay and Whitmore Bay at Barry Island, the club is very concerned about anything that impacts on the water quality for us, other sea users and sea life. While training and developing their lifesaving skills during the summer, our members have seen porpoises and seals on several occasions.

"We've seen an increase in water-based activities in the area, with regular sea swimmers, stand-up paddle boarders as well as several lifesaving competitions and triathlons, all enjoying the water and beach at Whitmore Bay and this needs to be protected."

Greenpeace and EDF in 'toxic' stand-off

by TIM CHAPMAN
07891 690798 or email
tim.chapman@
glamorgan-gem.co.uk

GREENPEACE has complained that EDF Energy, which owns the power station at Hinkley Point, has misrepresented the Greenpeace position on the dredging of mud from the Hinkley site and its disposal off the south Wales coast.

EDF says the mud poses no risk and Natural Resources Wales says it is safe, but local campaigners are demanding more tests are done.

Disposal of the mud began on Monday, September 10.

On Wednesday, September 12 Greenpeace released a statement demanding that EDF stop stating that Greenpeace accepts the mud isn't 'toxic'.

A Greenpeace spokesman said: "We request in the strongest terms that EDF ceases from stating that Greenpeace accepts that the mud is not toxic as that is not our current view.

"We are clear that we do not know if the mud is toxic or not, and therefore we support calls for more testing to be undertaken.

"Legitimate questions are being raised by local residents and concerned citizens about the limits of the testing that has been done so far.

"Their calls for further testing should be respected and we support calls for further testing of the mud before it is moved.

"It is important that the result of this testing removes any reasonable doubt that this mud may be harmful for current or future generations."

An EDF Energy spokesperson responded: "Greenpeace said on its own website that 'we're pleased the mud being cleared isn't toxic'.

"Greenpeace may have changed the website, but the science remains the same.

"The mud has been tested independently and shown to be no risk to people or the environment. In fact, the levels are so low as to be classed as not radioactive in law."

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir

ON Saturday, September 22, Cowbridge Male Voice Choir will perform at the Church of St Andrews and St Teilo, Woodville Road, Cathays, Cardiff in a joint concert with Cathays Brass.

The concert starts at 7pm and is in aid of the charity Llamau, which works supporting the homeless.

Tickets (£5) are available from cathaysbrasstickets@gmail.com or on the door.

On Wednesday, September 26 at St Cadoc's Church, Llancarfan, at 7.30pm, the choir will perform in aid of church funds.

Tickets (£10) include a glass of wine and are available from Mary Grey on 01446 781936 or Sue Taylor on 01446 781453.

Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade news

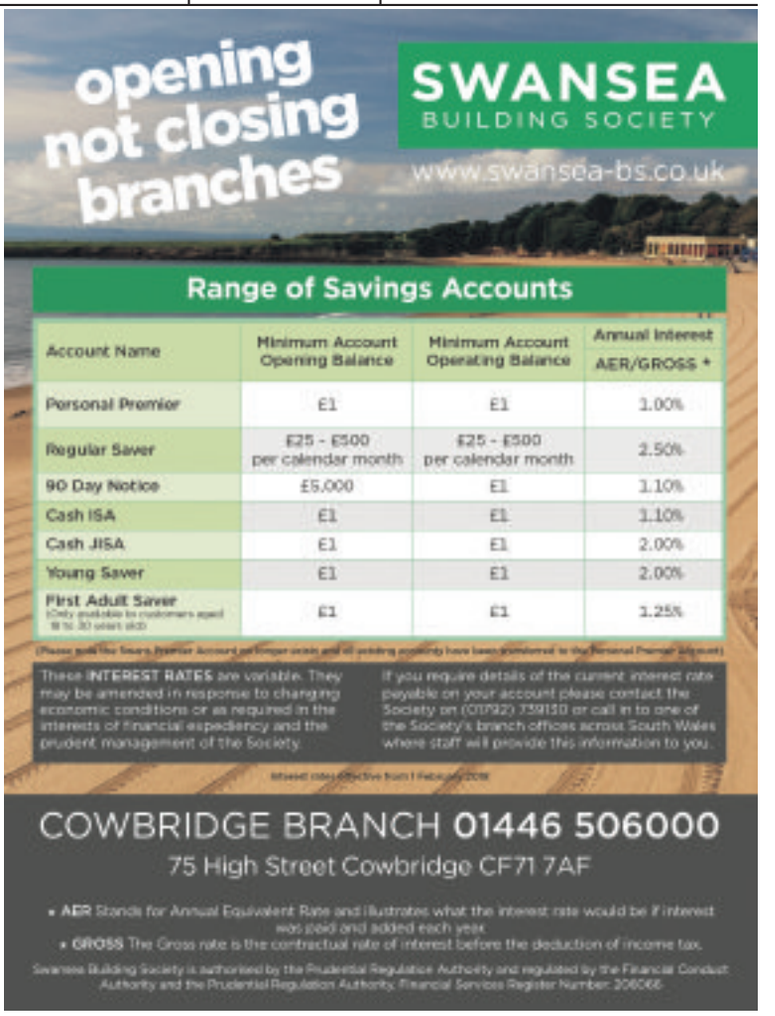
THE Anchor and Junior boys of 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade have been busy since starting back after the summer break.

The Anchors planted bulbs this week; they then took them home and are looking forward to February when the first shoots should appear. By the spring, each boy hopes to have a beautiful pot of baby daffodils to admire. A big 'thank you' to Andy Wellsbury for his expertise.

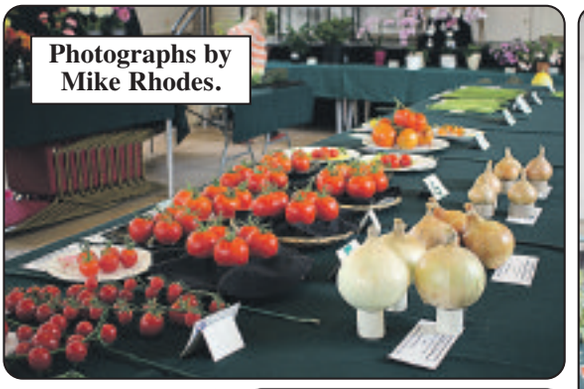
The Juniors also had a busy evening which included the pop bottle game, brushing up on their board games skills and making motivational bee badges.

If anyone would like any further information about Boys' Brigade in Llantwit Major contact Debbie on (01446) 796208.

Debbie Chapman



WICK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SHOW



Photographs by Mike Rhodes.

Clive Pritchard.

ABOVE: Sue Evans with her trophy.

Hermione Farmer with her trophy.

Allan Davies.

Ann Davies.

Collecting an award on behalf of Sally Fowler.

Carol Forty.

WICK Horticultural Society celebrated its 50th annual open Vegetable and Flower Show on September 1.

Visitor numbers were up a little on last year, no doubt due in part to the fine weather and special occasion.

Speaking of weather, it has been a peculiar year so far, firstly with the 'Beast from the east' bringing more snow than the Vale has seen in many a year and then the prolonged spell of unbroken sunshine that left our gardens parched and gardeners praying for rain.

As a result, there was a notable absence of some vegetables, fruit and flowers which had all finished early this year. Conversely, there was a surfeit of greenhouse crops, runner beans, beetroots and apples, with these categories very well represented. There was even a giant pumpkin that scooped first prize in the 'any other vegetable' category.

Fortunately, the baking and children's craft sections were unaffected by the weather and the judges were spoiled for choice with some very high quality entries.

The baking tables were weighed down with an impressive array of bara briths, sponges, Welsh cakes and scones, while the preserves section was also well represented with jams, marmalades and chutneys.

It was pleasing to see so many imaginative entries in the childrens section, especially so close to the beginning of the new school term. Congratulations to Hermione Farmer for winning the Children's Award with some superb entries. The winner of Best in Show this year was Sally Fowler.

Special Guest Terry Walton (star of BBC Radio 2's Jeremy Vine show) introduced the show and presented the winners' cups, as well as taking part in an impromptu question and answer session where he kindly gave some top tips for growing vegetables and keeping the pests at bay.

He stayed for the whole event and chatted with visitors making everyone feel very welcome, and commented "It was nice to see that villages are able to keep these events going".

The committee would like to thank the judges: Leigh Watkins (Vegetables and Fruit), Anne Evans (Floral and Children's) Maureen Griffin (Flowers) and Kath Mepham (Baking and Preserves) and everyone who gave their time to make this a successful event. We look forward to seeing even more entries next year.

Cup winners: Vegetables: Clive Pritchard; Collection of Vegetables: Allan Davies; Fruit: Ann Davies; Flowers: Sally Fowler; Floral Arrangement: Sue Evans; Home Baking: Carol Forty; Children's Award: Hermione Farmer; Best in Show: Sally Fowler.

Results: **Section one – Vegetables**: 1. Five Potatoes, first, Clive Pritchard; second; Clive Pritchard; third, Mike Rhodes.

Three Beetroot: first, Clive Pritchard; second, Alison Leach; third, Clive Pritchard.

Three Carrots: first and second, Clive Pritchard; third, Robbie Norris.

Three Onions under 8oz: First, Alison Leach; second, Allan Davies.

Three Onions over 8oz: First and second, Clive Pritchard.

Three Leeks: First, Allan Davies.

Five Shallots (large): First, Peter Metham.

Five Shallots (small): First, Peter Metham.

Three Parsnips: First, Clive Pritchard.

Marrow: First, Mike Rhodes; second, Allan Davies; third, Alison Leach.

Six Runner Beans: First and second, Clive Pritchard; third, Peter Metham.

Longest Runner Bean: Clive Pritchard.

Any Other Vegetable: First, Hayley Prout-Davies; second, David Davies; third, Tim Fowler.

Five Tomatoes: first, Clive Pritchard; second, Ron Ayres; third, Nicola Hallerwitts.

Cherry Tomatoes Truss: Ron Ayres.

Two Cucumbers: First, Alison Leach; second, Clive Pritchard; third, Robbie Norris.

Two Lettuces: Alison Leach.

Vegetable Collection: Allan Davies.

Fun Entry: First, Doreen Stych; second, Alison Leach, third, Mike Rhodes.

Best in vegetables: Clive Pritchard.

Best collection: Allan Davies.

Section two – fruit: Five Apples (Dessert): First, Ann Davies; second, Monty Rhodes; third, Ann Davies.

Dish of Stoned Fruit: Ann Davies.

Any Other Fruit: First, Phil Davies; second, Allan Davies; third, Ann Davies.

Best in fruit: Ann Davies.

Section three – Flowers: Bowl of Roses (10), Tony Munt.

Gladioli (3): First, Doreen Stych; second, Doreen Stych; third, Carol Forty.

Dahlias (Dec/Cactus): First, Tim Fowler; second, Clive Pritchard; third, Clive Pritchard.

Dahlias (Pom-Pom): First, Ron Ayres; second, Clive Pritchard; third, Clive Pritchard.

Vase of Mixed Flowers: First, Clive Pritchard; second, Clive Pritchard; third, Doreen Stych.

Any One Variety: First, Clive Pritchard; second, Clive Pritchard; third, Carol Forty.

Pot Plant (Foliage under 5inch): First, Doreen Stych.

Pot Plant (Foliage over 5inch): First, Clive Pritchard; second, Noelle Fee; third, Doreen Stych.

Pot Plant (Flower under 5inch): First, Sally Fowler; second, Carol Forty; third, Doreen Stych.

Pot Plant (Flower over 5inch): First, Noelle Fee.

Fuchsias (max 8 inch): First, Roger Savidge; second, Noelle Fee..

Six Kinds of Herbs: First, Clive Pritchard; second, Robbie Norris.

Succulents/Cacti: First, Richard Leach; second, Roger Savidge; third, Mike Rhodes.

Best in flowers: Sally Fowler.

Section four – Flower arrangements: Table Decoration: First, Sue Evans.

Decorative Buttonhole: First, Carol Forty; second, Carol Forty; third, Sue Evans.

Foliage Arrangement: First, Sue Evans; second, Noelle Fee

Floral Design Driftwood: First, Sue Evans.

Best in floral arrangements: Sue Evans

Section five – Home baking and preserves: "Apricot Tea Bread" Loaf Cake: First, Marie Shepherd; second, Mary Swaine; third, Sue Evans.

Five Welsh Cakes: First, Mary Morgan; second, Sue Evans.

Victoria Sandwich: First, Julie Lazenby; second, Suzanne Andrews; third, Sue Evans.

Five Shortbread Biscuits: First, Julie Ball; second, Sue Evans.

Five Fruit Scones: First, Liz Lewellyn; second, Doreen Stych; third, Carol Forty.

Five Matching Cupcakes: First: Julie Ball; second, Sue Evans.

Apple Tart: First, Carol Forty.

Savoury Flan or Quiche: First, Carol Forty; second, Doreen Stych; third, Julie Ball.

Jar of Jam: First, Julie Ball.

Jar of Jelly: First, Mary Morgan; second, Robbie Norris; third, Dorothy Pritchard.

Jar of Fruit Marmalade: First, Robbie Norris; second, Dorothy Pritchard; third, Winnie Davies.

Jar of Savoury Preserve: First, Mary Morgan.

Best in home baking and preserves: Carol Forty.

Section six – Children's section: Decorated Egg: First, Monty Rhodes; second, Olivia Ball; third, Catrin Jones; HC, Catrin Jones.

Decorated 3 Plain Biscuits: First, Catrin Jones; second, Natasha Forty; third, Natasha Forty; HC, Mabel Weber.

Miniature Garden in Tray: First, Hermione Farmer; second, Olivia Ball; third, Monty Rhodes; HC, Natasha Forty.

Vegetable Animal: first, Hermione Farmer; second, Catrin Jones; third, Olivia Ball; HC, Monty Rhodes.

Painting of a Sunflower: First, Olivia Ball; second, Catrin Jones; third, Monty Rhodes; HC, Natasha Forty.

Hand-made 50th Anniversary Card: First, Olivia Ball; second, Catrin Jones; third, Natasha Forty; HC, Natasha Forty.

Collage of Seeds and Leaves: First, Hermione Farmer; second, Monty Rhodes; third, Olivia Ball.

Best in children's section – Olivia Ball

Trophies: Best exhibit –Vegetables: Clive Pritchard; Best exhibit – Collection of vegetables: Allan Davies; Best Exhibit – Fruit: Ann Davies; Best Exhibit – Flowers: Sally Fowler; Best Exhibit – Floral Arrangement, Sue Evans; Best exhibit – Home Baking: Carol Forty; Best Exhibit – Children's Section: Hermione Farmer; Best Exhibit in Show: Sally Fowler.

Report and photographs by Mike Rhodes

Vale ploughing match enjoys keen competition over course of weekend

Vintage brothers Basil (left) and David George (combined age of 172) on vintage Ferguson tractors.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society's annual ploughing match was held at Sealand Farm, St Brides Major on September 9 by kind permission of president Richard Anthony and his family, who supported the event in every way throughout the weekend.

The president welcomed all competitors and supporters and wished them the best of luck for the match, pointing out that the field was once used as a spare runway for the Llandow airfield during the World War II.

Over 20 competitors made use of the practice area on Saturday, and in spite of heavy rain that night the weather cleared on Sunday for the ploughing match, which took place on a 70 acre field; 45 tractors turned out filling the various classes, plus three teams of horses putting on a very good show.

The judges of the tractor ploughing were Ken Davies and Tudor Harris, Pembs, and the horse ploughing was judged by Cyril Creasey, Porthcawl.

A large number of visitors attended the event throughout the day, putting a smile on the face of the society's treasurer Rhys Morgan.

Before presenting the prizes at the close of the event, the chairman Andrew Studley thanked the president and his family for making the first class site available.

He also thanked all the competitors for taking part, and the committee and stewards for all the hard work put in to make the event run smoothly.

He gave special mention to the Society's secretary, Sarah Radcliffe, who put in a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes, which became apparent when it all came together on the day.

Finally he thanked the sponsors and supporters for the programme of the event.

The 2018 ploughing match was a great credit to all concerned and everyone looks forward to next year's event.

The results from 2018 match are as follows.

Horse Ploughing: 1st Kym Williams, 2nd John Fletcher, 3rd Heather Robinson.

Class 1 Ferguson Class: 1st Will John, 2nd Phil Jones, 3rd Allan Lucas.

Class 2 Open Vintage Trailer: 1st Gordon Harries.

Class 3 Open Vintage Hydraulic: 1st Tony Bradley, 2nd Garry Whitehouse, 3rd Clive Pugh, 4th Neil Rollings.

Class 4 Classic: 1st Jeremy Jacobs, 2nd Alan Davies, 3rd David Nicholas, 4th Andrew Thomas.

Class 5 World Style: 1st Brenig Bryan, 2nd Aled Morgan, 3rd Rhodri George.

Class 6 Novice: 1st Morgan Evans, 2nd Josh Beams, 3rd John Thomas, 4th Peter Batchelor.

Class 7 Commercial Reversible (Experienced): 1st Rob Matthews, 2nd Tom Lougher, 3rd Howie Evans, 4th David Popham.

Commercial Reversible (Novice): 1st Ben Lindel, 2nd James Drury, 3rd Phillip Allen, 4th David Brown.

Alban Wilde Perpetual Trophy: Rob Matthews.

Edward Leonard Memorial Trophy: Jeremy Jacobs.

Glamorgan Farmers' Club Trophy: Morgan Evans.

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OPEN DAY & EVENING

Wednesday 3rd October

Evening starts at 6.00pm

with address from Headteacher at 6.00pm and 7.00pm

The provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is an outstanding feature. The school has a very positive and inclusive ethos...

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Successful - Resilient - Gospel Values

Tracey is a fundraiser extraordinaire!

A TONDU woman, helped by family and the local community, has raised an astonishing £145,000 since September 2017 for Velindre Cancer Care, *writes TIM CHAPMAN*.

Amazing fundraisers Tracey Davies and daughter-in-law Emily Davies.

Tracey Davies (48) a social worker at the Royal Gwent Hospital, began fundraising for charities a number of years ago after two particular events in her life – a family tragedy and a friend's daughter having a serious illness.

In fact, Tracey's latest fundraising venture, a trip to Cambodia in a few weeks' time, will be tinged with sadness because her friend Anne, who was due to accompany her, died of cancer recently.

Tracey is supported in her many fundraising endeavours by her daughter-in-law Emily Davies (28) who lives in Ogmore Vale. Emily is a trainee pharmacy technician based in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital.

Tracey explained: "My aim has been to raise awareness of Velindre Cancer Centre which treats people from all over Wales and also sometimes from England.

"It is a truly amazing place treating people when they are at their most vulnerable – it's a true credit to Wales.

"Some of my patients from the Royal Gwent Hospital go to Velindre and I could see the impact it had on them. I could see where the money was going and that it is not wasted."

Before she began fundraising for Velindre Tracey had already raised £50,000 for other charitable causes.

Her fundraising for Velindre began with a trip to Patagonia in 2015 and went on from there.

"I went with Shane Williams, Julian Lewis Jones, who played Crazy Karl in Stella, rugby broadcaster Sean Holley and 13 other people.

"I completed a 400km bike ride over the Coromandel Hills in New Zealand in 2017, again with Shane Williams and 12 others."

She also completed a trek last year to Machu Picchu in Peru. At that point, she had raised £36,000 for Velindre and last year was named one of its ambassadors.

She said: "Emily and I then decided to do a trek of our own this year to Cambodia with a £10,000 target. We've ended up raising just under £145,000.

"Our 'Light Up Pen Y Fan' walks on May 5, May 12 and August 4, in which 400 people took part, brought in nearly £100,000 of the total. People are still paying in.

"There are 10 of us in total taking part in the Cambodia trek. One of our members and a friend, Anne Wiggley, will be missing because she sadly lost her battle with cancer a few weeks ago. She was also an ambassador for Velindre. I had spent time with her on previous treks and walks.

"The trek will be very emotional without Anne, especially when we get to the 'Temples of Angkor Wat'."

Tracey has also raised more funds by organising car boot sales and psychic nights, and taking part in sky dives and so far, she has completed 17!

She plans a fundraiser for 'Everest Base Camp' next year.

Tracey's success is down to lots of enthusiasm and energy. She said: "It takes a lot of time and effort, but Emily and I love doing it. We publicise events on Facebook and have been supported by PC Signs, Tondu, who have helped with t-shirts and banners.

"Our husbands and family are our biggest supporters and never fail to be there whatever we do."

To donate to Tracey and Emily's Cambodia trek for Velindre Cancer Centre, go to: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/traceyemilydavies18.

ADVERTORIAL

The search for missing Ludo continues...

THE story of Ludo the Labrador/Border Collie cross, has swept through the Vale and the surrounding areas, with dog lovers everywhere concerned for his wellbeing.

When the Bull family of Llantwit Major set up their Facebook page dedicated to report sightings and share ideas of finding Ludo, they had no idea of how much of a reaction it would get.

Several searches have taken place, the help of a pet detective was enlisted and the Bulls have entrusted members of the Find Ludo group to act as administrators for the page due to the high volume of join requests and posts.

In fact, a few of the members have dedicated their spare time to actively searching, putting up posters and seeking celebrity endorsements to help spread the word.

Despite the continued support and the outpouring of positivity, poor Ludo has yet to be spotted.

"The not knowing what has happened to him is the worst thing," said Hannah Bull.

"Evenings are the worst, when your mind starts to go into overload you worry even more – I miss everything about him."

Chris Bull says they are both overwhelmed by the kindness they are being shown, people they never knew before have been amazing, organising searches, putting up posters and going door to door with flyers.

They just need a sighting – many people are ready to spring into action as soon as there is a positive sighting, something they are hoping they get very soon.

"Too many tears have been shed and not just by us. The love for Ludo is immense and the support is fantastic – if love and support could find him, he would be home in a nanosecond," he said.

Hannah and Chris are worried that with time marching on, people will give up on him – something they will never do; he is their dog and they will not rest until he is back with them.

If someone finds a dog, the law says they must report it to the dog warden. It can be tempting to take in a stray dog, but people are urged to think about the dog's family and to always report a stray.

There is currently a substantial reward for Ludo's safe return.

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Vale Council struggles with increase in demand for mental health assessments

FAMILIES are being left "in despair" as councils fail to cope with a soaring demand for urgent mental health assessments, it has been reported.

The Vale and Cardiff areas have experienced what's been described as a "scary" increase in the number of referrals for deprivation of liberty safeguards – which are for people unable to make decisions about their own care who need constant supervision.

A team dealing with 'DoLS' referrals across the region are dealing a backlog of more than 800 outstanding assessments which have yet to be carried out which has led to concerns many families are being left without urgently-needed support.

More than 2,500 referrals for 'DoLS' were received by the team in 2017/18 alone – and just 1,676 assessments were completed.

Natasha James, the Vale Council's operational manager for safeguarding and service outcomes, has said all local authorities are struggling with the demand.

She told the council's healthy living and social care scrutiny committee on September 11: "The demand for authorisation of deprivation of liberty safeguards far outweighs what we are able to keep up with and achieve."

'DoLS' assessments are co-ordinated by the Cardiff and the Vale Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards/Mental Capacity Act on behalf of three authorities.

The team completed 840 'DoLS' assessments from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board in 2017/18, and in April, there were 95 outstanding. 'DoLS' referrals for hospital patients have to be prioritised because of the unpredictable nature of hospital admissions.

Some 508 assessments from Cardiff Council were completed in 2017/18, and in April there were 504 outstanding.

Figures for DoLS assessments from theVale Council showed 328 were completed in 2017/18, and in April there were 230 outstanding.

A landmark Supreme Court Ruling in 2014 caused an increase in 'DoLS' assessments which local authorities have to deal with.

It made factors such as the purpose of a deprivation of liberty or the person's compliance with it irrelevant when social services decided upon applications.

Before the ruling took effect in 2013/14, authorities across Cardiff and the Vale dealt with just 93 'DoLS' referrals.

Cllr Neil Thomas told the committee: "It's a scary increase in the numbers. It's astronomic.

"It looks like cases at the bottom of the list will never get to the top. It appears they will never be assessed."

Ms James said: "This is absolutely the case for authorities across the board."

Cllr Thomas added: "There are going to be families in despair and continuing despair, because the support is not coming through."

Amanda Phillips, head of resource management and safeguarding, said there will be other measures taken to mitigate risk to people while they are waiting to be assessed.

A report to the committee said'DoLS' assessments are not done in isolation.

The report stated: "Individuals who are involved in the 'DoLS' process and who are resident within the Vale Council area will have already have had a full assessment of their care and support needs by an appropriate professional.

"An appropriate care and support plan will be in place and the authority will have ensured that identified needs are being met."

Matt Discombe, Local Democracy Reporter

Can you help Betsy?

BETSY is a three-year-old Crossbreed. It does take some time for her to gain trust with people, so she will need to live with patient owners who can allow her some space.

Betsy is looking for patient owners.

She loves the company of other dogs and it would be beneficial for her to live with a confident dog already established in the home, as this may help her settle sooner.

Due to Betsy's sensitive nature, she will need to live in an adult-only home with no young visiting children. Once Betsy finds her feet, she is sure to shine!

If you would like to know more about Betsy, then contact Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725219; or call into the centre at Court Colman CF31 4NG. You can also visit the website at www dogstrust.org.uk.

An invitation to turn Barry Island red, white and green!

AROUND 2,000 people are expected to march with multi-coloured banners and a samba band down the Barry Island promenade on Saturday, October 6 at 11.30am, as part of the May 2019 Cardiff and Vale Urdd National Eisteddfod Proclamation Festival.

Local schools and colleges are invited to participate in the march which will start on the beach in front of Marco's Café.

Following the march, the celebrations will continue until 3pm with an afternoon of free entertainment for the family.

The afternoon will include performances from Syrcas Circus, S4C's *Cyw* presenters and characters, the Barry Big Band, Wigwam and performances by local schools, 'adrannau' (Urdd youth clubs) and groups.

Gwenno Mair Davies, chair of the Urdd Eisteddfod Board, said: "With the hard work of preparing and raising funds for the Urdd Eisteddfod Cardiff and the Vale 2019 in full flow, we are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone to Barry Island to celebrate the Proclamation Festival.

"A host of schools from the whole area will be participating to march through the streets of Barry.

"Rain or shine, there will be a whole host of activities, fun and entertainment to be had on the day and there is a warm welcome for everybody to come along!"

Rob Thomas, the Vale Council managing director, said: "It is a pleasure to hold the Proclamation Festival at Barry Island, one of the most iconic locations in the Vale.

"As a Council, we were very proud to have welcomed the National Eisteddfod in 2012 and we look forward to welcoming the Urdd Eisteddfod to Cardiff and the Vale in 2019.

"We know that a number of our schools will be participating and enjoying not only the Proclamation Festival, but also the festival itself in 2019, which does so much to celebrate the importance of Welsh culture."

People are encouraged to wear red, white and green on the day, and Eisteddfod 2019 goods will be for sale on the Urdd stand, including hoodies and T-shirts.

Aled Sion, director of the Urdd Eisteddfod, said: "The support we have received to date from people in the area coming to the Urdd Eisteddfod's, one of the largest travelling festivals in Europe, has been fantastic."

Banner competition

NO march is complete without banners, and a cash prize is being offered to the winners of a competition to create and display a banner on the day which promotes a school/adran(club) and highlights the coming of the Eisteddfod.

Welsh, Urdd and Owain Glyndŵr banners are also welcome on the march.

Free public car parks are provided, but those attending are encouraged to use public transport where possible.

If anyone is interested in having a stall during the festival, contact *ruth@urdd.org* before September 29.

Arrest made in fake police officer scam

DETECTIVES investigating a scam where fraudsters purport to be police officers have made an arrest.

A 30-year-old Cardiff man was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud.

The arrest was in connection with a series of scams committed in the Vale area.

Officers carried out an early morning raid of a house in Adamsdown, Cardiff, where a quantity of cash was found.

Detective Inspector Terry Hopkins, of Barry CID, said: "This arrest is as a result of an ongoing investigation into fraudsters purporting to be fake police officers to con mainly elderly victims into handing over their money.

"A team of detectives have been investigating these type of scams as part of Operation Signature.

"Police officers will never call you asking for money. If you or your loved ones receive calls of this nature then please hang up and report it to us on 101 or 999 in an emergency."

Group can help with courses

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) offers an extensive range of training courses and briefing sessions.

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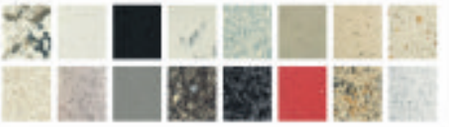

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Readers' Letters Extra

'Setting GEM reader straight about Major Pride'

I READ with some outrage the comments regarding the Major Pride event made by 'GEM reader' in the September 13 edition.

The most egregious is that it was clearly separated from the normal letter page and published on page seven, as its own article, for reasons I can't explain.

[*Editor's note: Staff can explain - when the letter was received, the letters' page was full.*]

There are numerous issues Mr Morgan raises. He states in his opening paragraph, "I missed what was seemingly a significant and well-organised event."

Unfortunately, this statement is rendered null and void later in the article, as he states: "I noticed the presence again of the of the police car with its rainbow livery."

How could Mr Morgan have noticed this if he wasn't in attendance?

"Another event in an already full social calendar" is a complete fallacy. There are a handful of events at best; Victorian Fair Day which is held once every two years, Party on the Pitch which is hosted by the Rugby Club and warrants no road closures, and the 10k event... Can anyone else name anything else?

The reader makes a good point about Remembrance Day, however, his argument that is wishful thinking.

His worst comments appear at the end of the letter: "...a fundraising event for the organisation to pursue its own agenda within our community. It is unnecessary and potentially divisive for our town".

This is an exceptionally backward take on progress, and is more deserving of the 19th century, not the 21st.

Lastly, lets address the biggest problem of all: Graham Morgan, 'GEM reader' isn't just a GEM reader at all; he is a member of the Llantwit Major Town Council.

He asked: "Was any public money or by way of grants or sponsorship?"

You tell us Mr Morgan; you're clearly more in the loop than the average GEM reader. I can only hope his constituents are as unhappy with his stance on Major Pride as I am.

Gareth Hughes, Llantwit Major.

'Coverage of event over the top'

WELL said, Graham Morgan (GEM Letters, September 13). Can I say that I have no issue with how people live whether they are straight, gay, trans or anything else.

None of these things are new, Queen Victoria brought in laws about it all. What I object to is having it pushed down my throat – should I organise an event for heterosexual happily married couples and parade down the street?

Why did the police attend in their multi-coloured car, when they keep bleating that they are at breaking point through lack of money and resources, and how could they spare four officers to join this parade? Who paid for this?

I also didn't quite understand the relevance of a multicoloured hearse.

As Graham said in his letter, why did they not get charged for the use of the road as other events are?

I felt the amount of coverage given by The GEM was over the top.

The events group are working hard to put on events for Llantwit raising money for charity, not for the funds to go to pursue its own agenda, like Llantwit Pride.

I agree with Graham that it is unnecessary and potentially divisive for our town. Why would we need this event every year?

I reiterate that I have no problem with how people live; Llantwit Major is a lovely town. I was proud to be Mayor for one year and to serve as a town councillor for over 10 years.

Ann Knight, Llantwit Major.

It's film night at the library

THE new season of film nights at the library got off to a frustrating start in September because of a last-minute substitution for the film we had intended to show.

This was simply because we had inadvertently advertised the title of the film we had planned, and we are not allowed to do that under the terms of our agreement with the distributors.

Nevertheless, the film we did show was much enjoyed.

We cannot tell you the title of October's film either, except to say that you had better spend the next week or so limbering up your heart strings because they will be in for some serious tugging on the evening of Tuesday, October 2.

We start promptly at 7.30pm and the scene is set in an American school playground where bullying is rife.

You are assured of your seat if you ring the library on 01446 792700, but we do not guarantee its comfort so you would be wise to bring a cushion.

MG

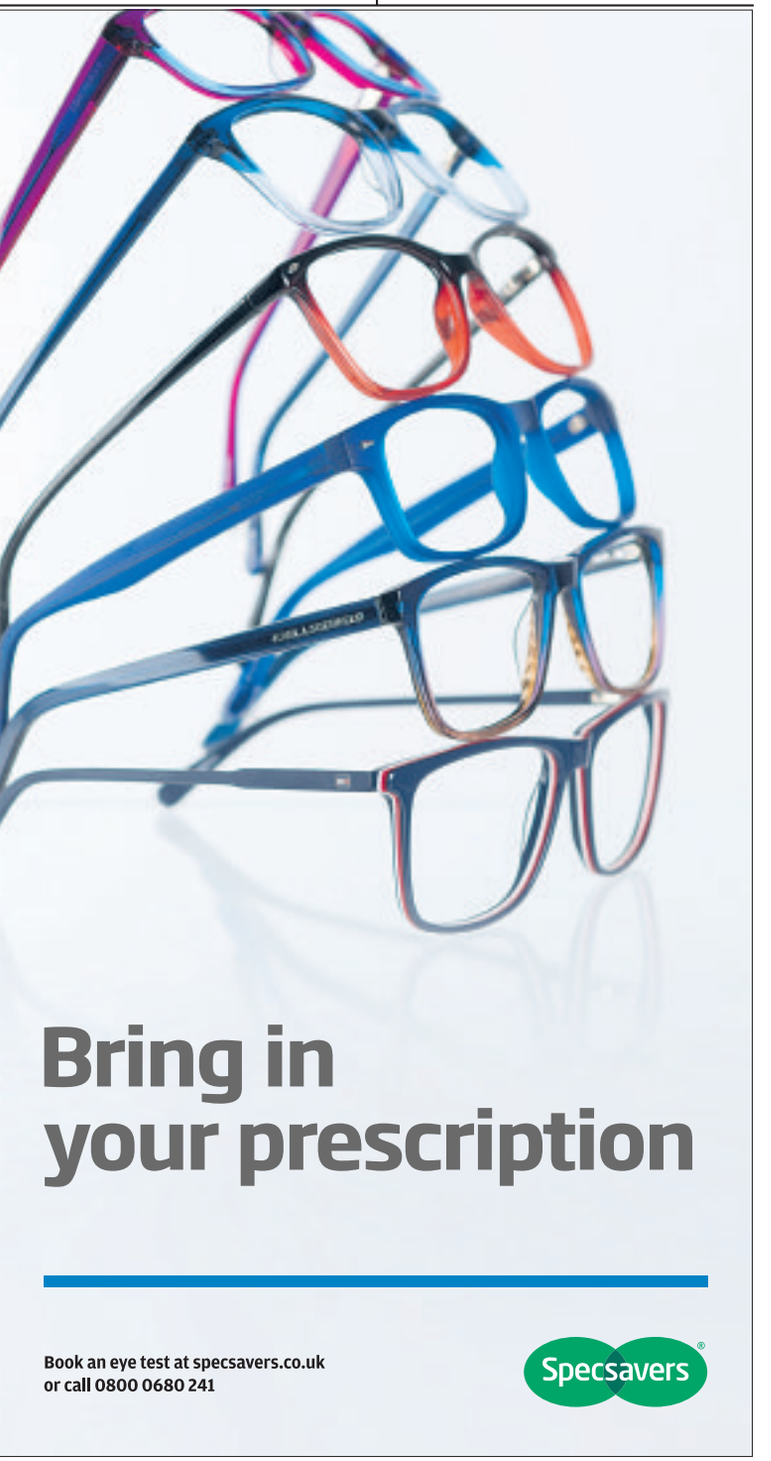
Tune Club to hold concert

LLANTWIT Major Tune Club is celebrating seven years of being part of an initiative to popularise Welsh folk music, by hosting a very special concert with Welsh duo Delyth and Angharad Jenkins in the beautiful surroundings of the west church at St Illtyd's Church on Saturday, October 6.

'DnA' are mother and daughter, and well known for their intimate performances on harp and fiddle which feature their own arrangements and compositions, with an irresistible blend of the traditional and the innovative.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are available at Nickelby's Bookshop, the parish office, or on the door.

The Tune Club is pleased to be making a contribution from this evening's concert towards enhancing the performance space at St Illtyd's for future events.



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There's still time to have your say on Vale parking consultation

A COUNCILLOR has 'urged' people to respond to the Vale parking consultation which comes to an end on Friday, September 28.

The council has been holding drop-in sessions to explain the proposals to Vale residents.

Another session takes place on Monday, September 24 in the Council Chamber at the Civic Offices, Barry, from 3pm until 7pm.

Coun Gwyn John, of Llantwit Major, said that everyone in the Vale had an interest in the consultation, even if they did not live in a location that might face parking charges.

"I hope everyone living at Llantwit Major has responded to the Vale Council about the proposals for car parking charges across the four main towns in the Vale.

"I would like to remind everyone that they will suffer if they visit the towns affected.

"People living in St Athan, Dinas Powys and all the villages will suffer the same fate when visiting these towns.

"St Athan residents often go to Barry and Llantwit Major, so if car parking charges go ahead, then they too will have to dip in their pocket to pay."

For more information on the draft strategy, search online for 'Vale of Glamorgan Council parking consultation' or telephone 01446 700111.

Weatherman walks with Valeways

LAST Saturday, the Friends of Valeways gathered for their summer walk and buffet led by the charity's Honorary President, telly weatherman Derek Brockway.

They gathered at Dyffryn House, hosted by the National Trust, and set off for a four-mile trek around the area taking in part of the Vale Trails Haunted Fields walk; around 25 members took in the ancient sites of Tinkinswood and St Lythans.

The weather remained clement except for one squally shower as the party left Tinkinswood, an event helpfully predicted by Mr Brockway when he saw it approaching over the hills.

The chair of Valeways, Phil Gibbins, thanked Mr Brockway and all the Friends for their support which, in the last year particularly, enabled the charity to maintain 400 miles of country pathways in the Vale; to further develop their programme of Health Walks; and to expand support walks for people with cancer.

Penny Fell

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Fonmon Apiary in September

AS ever the seasons change and the bees are certainly aware of this: they are already preparing for the coming winter, and the observant beekeeper will see the drones (male bees) being forcibly removed from the hive.

Starvation and the cold will bring about their demise. Why does this happen? When bees swarm the old queen will leave the colony with a good number of its inhabitants, but provision has been made for a new queen to emerge in the now somewhat smaller colony left behind and this new queen will have to be mated before she can become fully functional. The drone's only contribution.

The worker bees (the ladies) who do all of the work, do all of the organising and control all colony functions, know only too well that there will be no swarming in the winter months, there will be no new queens so all drones are surplus to requirements; and these male non-contributors cannot be allowed to consume valuable in-house winter provisions. Pretty smart, eh?

However, the beekeeper must ensure that sufficient foodstuffs are available within the colony to enable them to survive throughout the winter months. Each colony will require at least 40lb of honey and a quantity of pollen to do so.

Feeding colonies can be done by mixing a 1kilo bag of white processed sugar and 1 pint of water together. This mixture produces syrup that is readily utilised by the bees. Commercial syrup is available and it is far superior to the white sugar mix.

Why feed? Well, the weather may have prevented foraging trips or the beekeeper has removed stores that should really have been left alone.

Decisions, decisions: the bees know what they are doing. It is all too often the beekeeper who does not, and winter losses due to starvation do occur when the wrong decision has been made.

Harold Williams

ADVERTORIAL

Care home is serenaded by Cardiff male voice choir

RESIDENTS at a Cardiff care home enjoyed an evening of uplifting music and song when one of the city's oldest choirs visited them for a special performance.

Tŷ Llandaff, a private nursing, residential and respite care home in Pontcanna, organised for Cardiff Male Choir to come in and sing a wide variety of songs including Welsh hymns and arias, jazz classic and gospel numbers and choruses from songs and great operas.

The choir, which was founded in 1898, were led by musical director Emma Laidlaw Height and accompanist Valerie Roberts, and delivered a stirring and emotional performance rounding off with everyone joining in with the Welsh national anthem Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.

Tŷ Llandaff activities co-ordinator Melanie Geoghegan said: "Musical events are always a big success with our residents, and who better to come and sing for us than our local male voice choir, especially as Wales is the land of song!

"There was a real 'moment' when the choir sang the national anthem and everyone in the room was singing together. The volume was incredible and the sound was tremendous. It was something very special!

"Music, and in particular singing, is so good for lifting the spirits and has been scientifically proven to lower blood pressure and improve mood.

"The benefits to our residents felt really tangible, and everyone has been buzzing about the performance ever since the visit. We can't wait to arrange to have the Cardiff Male Choir back in."

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Vote for Sally!

A LOCAL solicitor is asking clients past and present to support her after being nominated for a prestigious award.

The Family Law Awards have been taking place for the last eight years and this year, three of the awards will be voted for.

A shortlist of four nominees will be selected by the judges and voting is open until midday on October 19.

This year Sally Fitzherbert of Hopkins Law has been shortlisted for the 'Family Law Chartered Legal Executive of the Year' award and is the only Welsh finalist in the category.

Sally trained in Hugh James, starting straight from school at 16, and after qualifying in 2000 she worked for Clarke and Hartland, JA Hughes and Phoenix Legal Services before joining Hopkins Law in 2013.

Kerry Mordey, Co-Director and Head of Family Law at Hopkins Law Solicitors said "We are delighted that Sally's hard work and dedication has been recognised. We hope that her colleagues, friends and family remember to vote! "

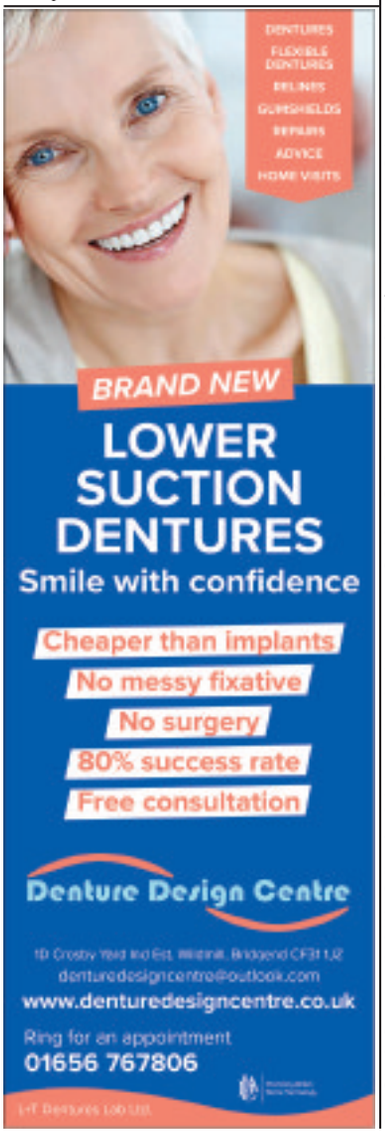
To vote for Sally, follow the link: *www.familylawawards.com/ehome/familylawawards2018/vote*

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, September 26 at 10.30am, the Cosmeston Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Cosmeston Country Park outside the visitor centre.

Also on September 26 at 2.30pm, the Llantwit Major Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the town hall car park.

On Thursday, September 27 at 10am, 'Is this a watersplash?' at the Six Bells, Penmark CF62 3BP.



A Victorian engineering dynasty in south Wales is celebrated

LEFT:
The celebration at the breakwater lighthouse led by Stephen K Jones, standing behind Norah Clark, Mayor of Porthcawl, with Cllr John McCarthy, Mayor of Bridgend CBC on her right.

CUTHBERT Arthur Brereton was one of the engineers involved in Barry No 2 Dock for the Wolfe Barry Partnership and was one of three Breretons engaged in engineering in south Wales.

They included his father, Robert Maitland Brereton, and the more distantly related Robert Pearson Brereton who came into prominence on September 15 when his work was celebrated at Porthcawl.

The legacy of the engineer was celebrated when a commemorative plaque was unveiled by the chair of the Institution of Civil Engineers Wales Cymru, Sarah Jones and Cllr Dr Charles Smith of Bridgend County Borough Council.

Marking the 200th anniversary of his birth, Robert Pearson Brereton (1818-1894) was born in the year the Institution of Civil Engineers was founded, and on September 15, 1859 with the death of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Brereton would cease to be his senior assistant and would now be engaged on finishing his engineering works.

Brereton is generally relegated to the footnotes of history – one of the invisible superheroes of engineering unlike the first president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Thomas Telford, George Stephenson or Isambard Kingdom Brunel, who are remembered today as the giants of the industrial revolution.

In the years after Brunel's death, Brereton was busy completing works such as the railway from the Maesteg district to Bridgend and on to Porthcawl, but he would also undertake some new projects of his own, including a new dock at Porthcawl.

In June 1864 an Act of Parliament authorised the construction of a dock with entrance and gates and other works at the northern end of the existing tidal basin, the substitution of a southern entrance for the one on the side, the extension of the breakwater by 100 yards and the erection of an inner pier 70 yards long.

Designed by Brereton, it was completed at a cost of £250,000 and opened on July 22, 1867.

The great increase in ships' tonnages and the competition of newer and deeper docks put Porthcawl under a great strain to survive in the 20th century; it exported 165,000 tons in 1871 of coal but within 20 years was struggling.

In 1906, Porthcawl gave up coal exporting and went from dock port to seaside resort with Brereton's inner dock filled in around the Second World War period.

Cuthbert Arthur Brereton was also involved with dockwork, in particular, Barry No 2 Dock and he worked on Porthcawl Dock under R P Brereton. In a more personal link with Cuthbert Arthur Brereton, he married a Jenner from Wenvoe Castle.

Stephen K Jones, Institution of Civil Engineers Panel for Historical Engineering Works

Should people be jailed for not paying council tax? Vale Council says it needs the option

A COUNCIL has defended sending people who don't pay council tax to prison after more than a dozen of its residents were jailed for the offence in recent years.

The Welsh Government is asking councils whether it should remove the threat of imprisonment for non-payment of council tax.

The Vale Council is expected to tell the Welsh Government it is against the removing the threat – despite critics calling it a 'Victorian' measure.

It comes after 16 people in the Vale have been put behind bars for non-payment of council tax between 2013/14 and 2017/18.

A total of 19,839 summonses taking people to court were issued to Vale residents in that time, Leader of the Vale Council, John Thomas, confirmed in July.

The council also said secured £416,712 during the past four years from people who refused to pay council tax through court summonses.

It said thousands of warning letters, sent before reaching the court summons stage, are being ignored by people who refuse to engage.

The Vale Council's draft response to Welsh Government said: "To suggest that committal should end without a viable alternative is simply unrealistic and would inevitably lead to a reduction in collection rates when council resources and services are already over stretched.

"If no viable alternative is available, then this could also encourage other customers who currently pay their council tax to resist payment as the collection process would be far less effective resulting in increased write-offs."

The council said it is "very selective" in ensuring that action is only taken "against those debtors who refuse to engage".

Imprisonment for non-payment of council tax was described by Plaid Cymru councillor Ian Johnson in July as a "Victorian practice".

A study by the Institute of Money Advisers and Payplan last year found court action by local authorities against people with council tax debt has "increased dramatically" since 2012 in Wales.

Their report said: "The litigious nature of council tax collection is out of step with the way that other civil debts are dealt with in the courts.

"There is also clear evidence that there are miscarriages of justice in the imprisonment of people for having council debts. The consequences for people imprisoned for council tax debt can be very severe. Advisers report that people who are behind with their bills often feel threatened with imprisonment even when there is no realistic prospect of lawful imprisonment in these cases."

A report to the Vale Cabinet said: "The council actively pursues debtors who have received reminders and court orders requiring them to pay their arrears of council tax, but who, despite being able to pay, have not done so.

"Action at this level is only taken as last resort with the numbers committed to prison being very low. No one has been imprisoned since January 2017 for non-payment of council tax in the Vale of Glamorgan.

"However, it is considered that this is an important option that the council should be able to utilise where an individual is opting not to pay their council tax bill."

Matt Discombe, Local Democracy Reporter

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NATIONAL EYE HEALTH WEEK

MONDAY 24TH - SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018 **YOUR VISION MATTERS**

The eyes have it!

WE all know the importance of looking after ourselves, making sure our lifestyles choice are healthy ones and that we keep fit and active.

But we tend to take our eyes and eyesight for granted, which is why National Eye Health Week (September 24-30) highlights the importance of eye health and the need for regular sight tests.

For everyday spectacle wearers, that's not just turning up for a two-year check-up at your local optician, it's also about making sure your eyes are cared for on a daily basis.

One of the simplest ways of ensuring healthy vision is to protect eyes from harmful UV light all year round. Constant exposure to UV rays is not only harmful to the skin but also to the eyes. Over time, it can accelerate ageing of the skin around the eyes and cause various forms of eye disorders such as cataracts, macula degeneration and eyelid skin cancers.

'Check your eyesight on a regular basis'

NATIONAL Eye Health Week (September 24-30) aims to raise awareness of the importance of eye health and the need for everyone to have sight checks every two years, to look after their eyes.

Dr Adrian Jones, from Jones & Jones optometrists, High Street, Barry, said: "Almost two million people in the UK are living with sight loss yet over half of sight loss can be avoided, so it is vital everyone takes care of their eyes. "Sight is the sense people fear losing the most, yet many of us don't know the best way to look after our eyes.

"This is why it is so important you get your eye health tested every two years at least, even if you think your vision is fine, as some eye conditions may not show symptoms. Visit visionmatters.org.uk."

Facts about vision loss: 20 million people in the UK could be at risk of avoidable sight loss because they fail to have regular sight tests. Almost two million people in the UK are living with sight loss, yet over half of sight loss can be avoided. This means that almost two million people have a sight problem which has a serious impact on their daily lives.

The figure is made up of people who are registered blind and partially sighted, and all the other people whose sight problems have a significant impact on daily activities. Not all of these people can be registered as blind or partially-sighted. Sight loss affects people of all ages.

The number of people in the UK with sight loss is set to increase dramatically. It is predicted hat by 2050, the number of people with sight loss in the UK will double to nearly four million.

Dr Adrian Jones is listed on the GOC Specialist Register as an Therapeutic IP Optometrist with a special interest in acute eyecare and glaucoma and holds the College of Optometrists Higher Diplomas in glaucoma and therapeutics.

Make an appointment today – call 01446 400015 or visit www.jonesandjones.org.uk.

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Taking a closer look at Barry Eye Centre…

ARE you looking for a reliable company that can offer eye tests in Barry?

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Barry Eye Centre has more than 27 years' experience in providing customers with an excellent level of service.

Based in Barry, we offer our services to the general public, carrying out both NHS and private examinations.

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We are also able to fit contact lenses on-site, as well as selling sunglasses, so whenever you are in need of professional opticians in Barry, you know you need to call Barry Eye Centre Ltd.

We are open six days a week and are professional and friendly at all times.

We take the care of your eyes very seriously and work hard to ensure that you have good eye health.

We're proud of the standard of our care to our customers and feel sure that you won't be disappointed that you chose Barry Eye Centre Ltd when you needed eye tests in Penarth.

For more information, contact us on 01446 745606, or info@barryeyecentrebarry.co.uk.

Inspiring people to look after their eyes…

LOCAL optometrist Annette Dobbs of Annette Dobbs Eyecare in Barry hopes to encourage people to take better care of their sight during National Eye Health Week.

Annette explained: "Research shows that half of all sight loss is avoidable, so we want to inspire the residents of Barry to look after their eyes.

"Sight is the sense that people fear losing the most, that's why it's so important to get your eyes checked regularly by a qualified optometrist."

In Wales, we are particularly lucky that the NHS covers many people's eye tests.

Annette's practice at 40 Tynewydd Road, Barry, carries out the full range of ophthalmic services for all age groups, including emergency care.

They've recently invested in a new, easily accessible ground floor consulting room that is fully fitted with the latest equipment including a state-of-the art Optical Coherence Tomography machine (OCT).

The OCT not only takes a digital photograph of the back of the eye but also captures a cross-sectional scan which enables earlier detection of sight-threatening eye diseases such as age-related macular degeneration and glaucoma.

Early detection is vital to prevent avoidable sight loss so don't forget to book an eye test during National Eye Health Week. For more information, contact Annette Dobbs Eyecare on 01446 735130.

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Our team of committed teachers are passionate about learning and continually strive to look for innovative ways of helping young people to learn better and more effectively.

Our long tradition of academic excellence places us as one of the highest performing schools in Wales. As a result we will talk to you about children, our story and the next steps in our journey. We talk and care about children not statistics.

Our caring, nurturing ethos permeates all aspects of school life. High levels of care, support and guidance coupled with our high expectations ensures a calm, purposeful learning environment.

Our proud tradition of sporting excellence means that our sportsmen and women regularly achieve regional, national and international honours, at an enviable range of sports.

Our exceptional range of activities beyond the classroom are central to life at the school; each year boasts a great repertoire of musical and drama performances, visits and actives.

Our facilities are state of the art. However, we dream big and then bigger again. Our ongoing capital development programme means our facilities and resources will remain amongst the very best in Wales.

Above all, we are distinguished by our students, they are our finest ambassadors.
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WI members learn all about NSPCC

MEMBERS of St Hilary WI were delighted to be back together and planning new adventures and meetings for the autumn.

Members enjoyed two social gatherings over the summer. We visited a beautiful garden in Barry and had a coffee morning in Aberthin, where we admired Jackie's garden and ate cake! The event raised £52 for the planting of a WI commemorative tree in St Hilary.

Emma Brennan, fundraising manager for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), gave an informative talk on the multi-faceted role of the charity in the 21st century.

Did you know the services offered by the NSPCC begin with children, even before they are born? That every child in primary school will generally receive two school assemblies during this phase of their education? The assemblies teach children important life skills to help them stay safe.

Emma outlined a KS2 assembly, 'A Sack of Worries', in which children discuss what might be troubling them and who might be a trusted adult they can turn to. Children are taught how to access help if they are experiencing abuse (sexual, physical, emotional or neglect) from Childline and the website www.childline.org.uk.

Emma also shared some educational videos; one,'Pantosaurus' is for the U5s and is produced by renowned animators Aardman.

Did you know that most children contact Childline today via a text? The Welsh Childline service received in the region of 100,000 on-line requests for help or advice, last year, far exceeding telephone calls.

The NSPCC clearly works in a demanding area of modern life and in a rapidly changing landscape eg children's 24/7 interaction with social media and the world-wide-web. The NSPCC is needed as much today as it was 100+ years ago (sad though this is)!

Members all agreed, the work of the NSPCC is well worth supporting. **CN**

Sunflower season...

Reader Catherine Lowery sent in this picture of her daughter with the sunflower she planted in her grandparents' garden. At over 8ft tall, could this be our winner?

ADVERTORIAL

'Diet pill miracle claims are hard to swallow' – The Slimming World view

A NEW diet pill may be available soon and Sarah Creasey, a Slimming World consultant with a group in Trinity Street, Barry, offers the SW view:

She said: "A lot of people have asked me about media reports of a new 'wonder' diet pill soon to hit the UK, called Lorcaserin and touted as the 'Holy Grail' of diet pills.

"Does it work and is it safe?

"Many wild and unfounded claims have been made about this 'miracle' weight loss pill, which is currently only licenced in the US. If it were to be approved in the UK that doesn't mean it will be available on the NHS, and privately could cost between £150 and £250 a month.

"I know I'd much rather spend that on healthy food, a great eating plan and spending time with like-minded people who can help, support and encourage me.

"Secondly, clinical trials found that the average weight loss was only 9lb over 40 months. Following a healthy eating plan and joining a weight loss group where you could lose up to 9lb much sooner is surely more effective.

"During my own weight loss journey of 30 years I have tried many 'fad diets' including the F-plan; the cabbage diet; the vodka diet, every supplement and shake on the market, herbal remedies, old wives' remedies and over the counter 'miracle' slimming pills, even gastric band surgery as a desperate last resort!

"Guess what? You got it…they didn't work! And they don't for the vast majority of us.

"The only solution I have found is my Slimming World group; over the years I've joined, lost weight, left, gained weight and joined again over and over.

"Finally I realised that this was a lifelong problem with a lifelong solution right in front of my eyes. Eureka!

"So I ditched the fad diets, shakes and pills and re-joined Slimming World with renewed determination to make it a lifelong commitment. With wonderful guidance from my amazing Slimming World consultant Martin Woodsford and support from my group, I reached my target weight last February... and I've stayed there with ease ever since.

Sarah before and after.

"I became a consultant myself and have just graduated as a fully-fledged Slimming World consultant, with a lovely group in Trinity Church in Barry. It wasn't easy, but I had so much support and that's what you'll get if you come along. It could be the start of a new you!

"A warm welcome, a complimentary cuppa and all the support you need are waiting every Tuesday, 5.30pm at Trinity Street Church.

"Give me a ring on 07917881220 if you'd like a chat."

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98.5% Year 9 pupils gained Level 5 or more in their subjects

GCSE Results 2018
100% achieved 5 or more A* - G grades
89.2% 5 or more A* - C
75% L2+ (5 or more A* - C including English and Maths)
English, Maths and Science - best results in Bridgend
A* - C pass rates: English 89.2%, Maths 77.6%, Science 82.3%
96.6% pass Welsh Baccalaureate

A Level Performance 2018
One third of all results were A*/A grade (32.5%)
More than 4 out of 5 were C grade or better (82.3%)
99.6% achieved 2 or more passes at A Level
38% pupils attending Russell Group Universities

These are the best results our school has ever had, and are the best in the Bridgend area.

The school has been delighted to welcome our new Year 7 and Sixth Form pupils - once again many joining us from out of catchment.

"I couldn't believe how welcoming everybody was and how quickly I settled in."

Any student or parent can obtain more information and a school prospectus by emailing
info@porthcawlschool.co.uk
Alternatively you may wish to telephone 01656 774100.

Further information can be found on the school website: www.porthcawlschool.co.uk

Out & About with The GEM

What's on and where

Tractor run

A CLASSIC tractor road run is being held on Sunday, September 23 at 10am starting from Llanilid Farm, Pencoed, CF35 5LA, supporting Nick's Trust Fund and Marie Curie in memory of Lizzie Edwards.

Entry is £10 per tractor/vehicle/4x4 and will feature a guest appearance by Welsh rugby international players at the half way stop and auction items including a Gareth Bale signed football shirt and pair of worn football boots, plus a Cardiff City signed football. Refreshments will include a hog roast and Sub Zero ice cream.

Further information from Wayne Griffiths on 07866 495064; come and join the fun!

Colwinston Youth Club

COULD you inspire young people in your community?

Colwinston Youth Club has vacancies volunteers to help out in the Youth Club on a Friday evenings. Do you have a skill you could share or have a couple of hours when you can help out?

The young people of Colwinston and the surrounding areas want to keep their youth club open but can't do it without some adults to help

The club is holding an open evening on Friday, September 21 between 7pm and 9pm. Call in to meet the members and see what we do. Refreshments and a barbecue available. If you can't come Friday but are interested contact colwinstonyouthclub@hotmail.com or call 07710 209437 for information.

Charity sale

A 50P sale will be held in All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on Wednesday, September 26 from 2pm until 3.30pm. Entry 50p, many bargains for all; proceeds for charity.

PACT meetings

COME along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon.

Meet local officers at Penarth Library on Thursday, September 27 at 5pm.

Meet PCSO Angela Stone at the village shop, Colwinston on Tuesday, September 25 at 11am.

Arts and crafts

LLANTWIT Major Art and Craft Group will meet on Friday, September 21 at 7.30 pm in Llantonian Hall.

It will be a practical evening where people bring whatever they are currently working on. Visitors are welcome to join us for a chat and a cup of coffee or tea. There is a small fee of £3 for non-members.

Councillors' surgery

DYFAN ward councillors Vincent Bailey and Leighton Rowlands will be holding an advice surgery offering help and support to local people at St David's Methodist Church, Winston Road Barry, from 10.30am-11.30am on Saturday, September 22; no appointment necessary.

Tax advice

DO you worry about your tax affairs? Age Connects Cardiff and Vale run a free monthly session on the last Monday in the month.

The next session will be be held on Monday, September 24 at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, from 9.30am to 11.30am.

No appointment is needed; just come along. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Gardening club

COWBRIDGE Gardening Club will meet again on Thursday, September 27 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall when David Jay will be speaking on roses. New members and visitors welcome.

Carers' service

LIVING as a carer means living under tremendous stress and pressure; caring for a loved one may involve grief, uncertainty, fear, frustration, anger, sadness and other difficult emotions.

As a carer you may find yourself asking questions such as 'Why is all this happening to us?' or 'How will I get through this?' Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge offers help and support.

On Thursday, September 27 at 2pm there will be a service for carers; this will be a quiet service with prayers and space to be still. Afterwards, there will be time to talk to other carers over a cup of tea.

If you would like more information contact Rev Victoria Ashley on 01446 775381; or vicar@cowbridgeparish.com.

Community cinema on the up in Penarth

IN spring 2017, the closure of the cinema on the Penarth Pier Pavilion was announced and after going to several of the meetings in local pubs, we at All Saints' Penarth, decided to set up a community cinema.

The first screening last September was *The Italian Job*, starring Michael Caine. We had an audience of 50 and thought we had arrived!

Now each month we have a regular audience of approximately 100 people. We offer a warm welcome, friendships have been made over the year, and our films sell out almost as soon as they are announced. We have shown films from *Murder on the Orient Express* to *Victoria and Abdul*.

Due to our continued success we are now able to get up-to-date films with our most recent screening in September of the *Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Society* starring Lily James and Tom Courtenay.

The next screening is *Edie* starring Sheila Hancock and currently has a waiting list. For details, contact allsaints.communitycinema@btinternet.com.

The Social Group at All Saint's Church have done a terrific job of screening films which are attracting a wide audience and wish them continued success as they go from strength to strength. Everyone in the cinema shared in the first birthday cake.

JM

The Predator makes for fun, but frustrating, viewing...

OVER the last 31 years, the Predator has gone from being a solo killing machine, to becoming embroiled in a cartel war, to fighting aliens through to hunting Adrien Brody and Laurence Fishburne.

Under the auspices of Shane Black, the latest Predator film to hit cinema screens is simply titled *The Predator*. Boyd Holbrook plays Quinn McKenna, a sniper who gets caught up in events when a Predator ship crashes on earth.

With the military (led by Sterling K Brown) determined to cover up the incident, Quinn is sent to be locked up with a group of patients, themselves former soldiers (amongst them Trevante Rhodes, Thomas Jane and Keegan Michael-Key).

However, Quinn leads an escape when he realises the Predator is going after his son (Jacob Tremblay), who has intercepted some Predator technology sent home by Quinn as evidence.

Teaming up with biologist Casey Bracket (Olivia Munn), can this ragtag mob stop the Predator? And what if this alien is just the tip of the iceberg?

Shane Black films never really follow the genre guidelines. See how he redefined the action genre with *Lethal Weapon* or how he undercut the Marvel blockbuster template with the irreverent (and for my money under appreciated) *Iron Man 3*.

The Predator works on the same level, a film that pays lip service to the series thus far, but a film that is resolutely a Shane Black piece of work. How much you enjoy it will depend on your love of the man's work and how closely you hold the *Predator* film series.

Co-written with Fred Dekker (who co-wrote the seminal 1987 *Monster Squad* with Black), this is a film that attunes 1980s action blockbuster sensibilities to 21st century filmmaking; and for the first two-thirds of the film, it works well.

You have characters that, if under-explored, are enjoyable enough company that you can engage with them, a plot that kicks in straight away and doesn't offer any let up at all, and action sequences that are fun.

Then you get to the final third, and everything that's gone before is undone by a climax that plays by the rules that Black and Dekker have so wilfully ignored previously.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

Knowing that the entire third act was rewritten and reshot doesn't help, but it's almost as if the pair realised that one of the joys of the *Predator* franchise is seeing the gigantic alien rain down the pain on his prey a little too late in the day.

So what we get is an ending that rushes to the finishing line and cleaves a little too closely to the 1987 film, full of continuity errors and overly-exuberant editing, with a desire to off as many characters as possible before we reach the traditional genre face-off.

It's disappointing as what precedes it is, while hardly earth-shattering, reasonably good fun. Black's trademark smart dialogue gives a frisson to proceedings, while his direction (despite some iffy CGI) is a relentless smorgasbord of gun fire, woundings and action, amping up that 1980s feeling.

The cast are all pleasing enough without overly pushing things. Boyd Holbrook makes a relatable, if grouchy, lead and Olivia Munn brings smarts and personality to what could have been a basic character.

Sterling K Brown has plenty of fun chewing the scenery as a military figure on the trail of the Predator, while the former soldiers who become embroiled in Quinn's mission to save his son (the always excellent Jacob Tremblay) bring a humour that lightens the mood considerably and gives the film a lighter tone.

This is a film that doesn't play things too straight; its ability to deliver just a hint of cheekiness (comparing the Predator to Whoopi Goldberg, dismissing the handle of the Predator because his MO is more that of a hunter) means its tone never becomes too portentous (aside from the finale) and that offers something different than what we've seen in *Predator* films thus far.

However, with its rule-playing climax (and a ham-fisted slice of sequel-baiting) it chafes with what's gone before, and it leaves *The Predator* being a fun, but frustrating, experience.

VERDICT: Two-thirds enjoyable, one third terrible, *The Predator* makes for a quirky and satisfying experience – at least until its ending, which plays too safe and predictably in comparison to what's gone before. It's a little shaggy in places, but Shane Black's handling of it is, in the main, more than solid and makes it reasonably pleasing effort. *Average*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Iron Man 3* (2013), *Predator* (1987).

News in brief

Support group for partially sighted

CARDIFF and Vale Institute for the Blind works to help blind and partially sighted people across Wales to enjoy independent and fulfilling lives.

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a drop in information session on Tuesday, September 25 at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry from 10am to 12pm. You will be able to chat to a professional from the Society on aids, practical support etc. No appointment is needed; call 01446 732385 for further information.

Oral hygiene

NATIONAL Smile Month is a campaign to help improve oral care, and it's not just about education, it's about having fun.

Cardiff and Vale Dental are taking part in this campaign and will hold a session at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, September 25 from 10am to 12pm and no appointment is needed.

Oral care can cause problems with diet, medication, poor eyesight, disability with arms and hands etc. Come and have a chat to a health care professional from the team. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Falls prevention

AS we get older, a fall can have serious consequences; so if you are at risk of a fall or know someone who is, come along to a talk on falls prevention by Anita Williams, occupational therapist, and falls coordinator with Bridgend Care and Repair.

The talk takes place in St Theodore's Church, High Street, Kenfig Hill on Tuesday, September 25 at 2pm. Free and open to all.

Family fun

A HARVEST 'family fun day' takes place on Saturday, September 29 from 4pm–6pm at Bethel Baptist Church, Harbour Road, Barry CF62 5SA; all welcome.

All Saints' quiz

You don't need to be Brain of Britain, an Egghead or Mastermind, but if you want a good fun evening then All Saints' Penarth social group has just the thing for you.

Quiz night is on Saturday, October 6 at 7.30pm in All Saints' parish church hall in Victoria Square, Penarth (CF64 3EH).

Tickets £7.50 to include refreshments from Griffin Books, Penarth or on line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/all-saint-cinema-club. Maximum six per team, but don't worry if you have not got a team – come along and join another table.

Prize for the winning – and the losing – team too! Licensed bar (limited number of tickets).

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Christmas Party Guide

TOWN OR COUNTRY? There's plenty of choices for your Christmas outing!

THERE is a lot to be said for planning an office Christmas party as a real outing, and in the Vale and Bridgend areas, that can mean a trip into one of our towns or out into the country.

So many venues – be they country pubs, hotels or establishments in small villages – are now tuned into welcoming Christmas parties, and they have become skilled at meeting all requirements.

Naturally people want to enjoy a few drinks at a party so it makes sense to hire a mini-bus so no-one has to drive home.

A mini-bus or coach can be part of the build-up to the evening. It can increase the 'buzz' and camaraderie, getting everyone relaxed and in a party mood before you set foot in the venue.

So much has changed over the years when it comes to dining.

Twenty years ago many establishments had very predictable styles of cuisine.

Country pubs and public houses in towns would serve up something traditional and wholesome, like a roast dinner perhaps, followed by a dessert of trusty Black Forest gateau or ice-cream.

Now the culinary landscape has been transformed, the chefs have escaped the confines of conformity and are keen to create their own 'specials' and offer something different – often very different!

Competition has meant an improvement in quality across the board.

Nowadays, menus are put together that have an excellent chance of satisfying the varied tastes of any random group of diners-out.

As customers have become more discerning – and this may well be due to all the Masterchef-style programmes on TV – so local chefs have responded.

So make that choice. Do you want an evening out in a local town – a restaurant or hotel perhaps?

Or maybe the relaxation of the country pub is more appealing to your family or fellow office workers.

Venues are already producing their Christmas menus and making arrangements for entertainment. So do your research, make your choice, and then you can relax for the Autumn, content that the office Christmas party is sorted out and there will be no last minute rush.

PI

Don't dawdle and dither... Make that Christmas booking!

WHEN it comes to booking that work do (or office party) for Christmas, just about the worst thing you can do is think too much and try too hard.

There is, of course, a great deal of pressure involved – it would be foolish to deny that.

The trouble is, that desire to get everything dead right can be your worst enemy, and it can lead to the main pitfall of party planning – being too late to get your choice.

It soon gets round the office that the 'first choice' was already booked – and then the second, and so on until the word among the staff is that it has all gone pear-shaped and that everyone has to make do with a place that was nowhere near first on the list.

Workplaces often get in this position when they set up a 'party group' who research the options, have a few meetings, talk endlessly, and then go home having failed to agree.

In the meantime, popular venues in the area are taking bookings and filling up.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

FINNEGANS INN
FINNEGANS CHRISTMAS PARTY
CABARET NIGHTS Only £20 3 Course + Cabaret
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Roast Butternut Squash Soup with Garlic Toasts
Chicken Liver Pate with Melba Toast & Balsamic Onion Marmalade
Traditional Prawn Cocktail
Traditional Roast Turkey with Seasonal Veg, Roast Potatoes Gravy & Cranberry Sauce
Baked Salmon Fillet with Green Beans & Hollandaise Sauce
Wild Mushroom Risotto (V) with Balsamic Glaze & Parmesan
Traditional Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce
Bread & Butter Pudding with Custard
Lemon Tart with Fresh Cream

SATURDAY DECEMBER 1st
DANCING QUEEN
FANTASTIC ABBA GIRLS TRIBUTE SHOW
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WHITNEY HOUSTON
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Lunch Menu for Christmas Parties
(to include a glass of Prosecco on arrival)
Smoked Salmon with Horseradish & Creme Fraiche
Deep Fried Onion Rings with our own Chutney
Mushrooms with Chilli, Garlic and Ginger sautéed in Olive Oil
Pissaladiere: Provencale Onion and Tomato Tart
Deep Fried Calamari with our own Tartare Sauce

Butter and Herb Roasted Free Range Turkey
with seasonal vegetables and Parsley & Thyme Stuffing
Chicken Breast with Wild Mushroom, White Wine & Cream Sauce
Battered Cod & Chips
Roasted Salmon with Tomatoes and Basil
A vegetarian trio of Baked Stuffed Peppers, Spinach and Cream Cheese Pancake and Roasted Stuffed Mushrooms

Mrs Villa's Christmas Pudding & Brandy Butter
Caramelised Oranges and Cream
Winter Fruit Compoté with Meringue and Clotted Cream
Chocolate and Apricot Tart
Créme Bruleé
Hazelnut & Raspberry Meringue

£22.50 per person

Dinner Menu for Christmas Parties
(to include a glass of Prosecco on arrival)
Smoked Salmon with Horseradish & Creme Fraiche
Fresh Crab and Prawn Cocktail
Mushrooms with Chilli, Garlic and Ginger sautéed in Olive Oil
Pissaladiere: Provencale Onion and Tomato Tart
Deep Fried Calamari with our own Tartare Sauce
Chicken Liver Paté

Butter and Herb Roasted Free Range Turkey
with seasonal vegetables and Parsley & Thyme Stuffing
Chicken Breast with Wild Mushroom, White Wine & Cream Sauce
Medallions of Fillet of Beef, Deep Fried Onion Rings, Roasted Tomatoes and Bearnaise Sauce (£5.00 extra)
King Prawns in Garlic Butter
Roasted Hake in a Beurre Blanc Sauce
A vegetarian trio of Baked Stuffed Peppers, Spinach and Cream Cheese Pancake and Roasted Stuffed Mushrooms

Mrs Villa's Christmas Pudding & Brandy Butter
Caramelised Oranges and Cream
Winter Fruit Compoté with Meringue and Clotted Cream
Chocolate and Apricot Tart • Créme Bruleé
Hazelnut & Raspberry Meringue

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All main courses served with a choice of Chips, Mashed or New Boiled Potatoes
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Christmas Party Guide

You have to be quick off the mark to make your party booking!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

While this 'party group' have the best intentions, the whole thing so often fails to come together, because the more opinions that are offered, the more complicated it all gets.

Oops! There goes another popular venue – all booked up.

However, if the working party gets stuck in and makes a firm, early decision, then what happens is that everyone in the office adjusts – because they know it was not a last-minute choice.

It won't be perfect for everyone – no place ever is, but it was a choice – not a last minute substitute.

So, if you draw the short straw and are involved in planning the office party, remember that the worst thing you can do is let the process drag on.

You might end up with a brilliant venue, but the delay will mean that some fellow workers will approach the evening with suspicion.

Here in the Vale, diners are spoiled for choice, because keen competition keeps standards high.

It's far more important to make a firm decision than to get stuck in a spiral of pointless research.

The moral of this Christmas tale is simple: Be decisive, don't dilly dally, and get your venue booked now!

PHILIP IRWIN

The Small Space means big fun!

ADVERTORIAL

HAVING only opened at the beginning of the year, The Small Space in Barry has already really taken off as a unique entertainment venue.

Billed as the world's smallest magic theatre, it has not only hosted live jazz, stand-up comedy, vinyl nights and international magicians from Italy, the United States and Holland, but it has also built a reputation as a fantastic private party venue, complete with regionally-sourced buffet.

Magic Circle magicians and directors, Bryan Gunton and Jasper Blakeley are the hosts and resident magicians who are now getting ready for the festive party season.

"It's been a mad few months with incredible feedback and huge local support but it's

Christmas party time now and that's another level of fun," said Jasper.

"Our regionally-sourced cheese and cold meat platters have really been well received; add to that our intimate upstairs bar with large range of gins mixed with some breathtaking magic, and we've been lucky to have received scores of five star reviews for our public shows and private parties."

The Small Space is booking private parties featuring full magic shows and food on afternoons and evenings throughout December, so if you fancy something different email *info@thesmallspace.co.uk* for details.

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Christmas Party Guide

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The morning after the party before!

CHRISTMAS is the season to be 'merry' but drinking too much alcohol can have the opposite effect, leaving you feeling very much the worse for wear!

So, you should seriously consider taking it easy and not overdoing things during the festive season – and, above all – *never be tempted to drink and drive*.

However, the flesh is weak so here is The GEM guide to recovery if you do have more than you intended.

THE TOP TIPS ARE:

1/ Eat before you party! Food slows down the absorbtion of alcohol and protects the stomach lining.

2/ Don't mix grape and grain. Simply put, beer and whisky come from grain, whereas wine and cognac come from grapes. If you are not sure what sambuca, ouzo or retsina are made from, then you may have to do some research or ask a friendly waiter.

3/ If you smoke, cut down. Smoking makes you want to drink more.

4/ Drink a pint of water before you go to bed. This will counteract the dehydration effect of alcohol.

5/ Some people advise taking evening primrose oil, which is alleged to boost liver function, helping the body break down alcohol in the system.

6/ When you have had enough, just say NO.

7/ Drink plenty of water with your wine.

This will slow down your alcohol intake, and it will also stop that dehydration effect.

The FONTYGARY INN

Christmas Party Bookings
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Festive Menu

STARTERS
Today's soup *Served with rustic bread*
Prawn & Avocado Cocktail
With a Marie Rose sauce served with rustic bread
Rustic Farmhouse Parfait
With a festive chutney and toasted ciabatta
Deep Fried Welsh Brie
With winter berry compote
Sauté of Garlic Mushrooms

MAINS
All served with seasonal vegetables & potatoes of your choice
Roast Glamorgan Turkey Breast
With fluffy beef-dripping roast potatoes, sage, onion and cranberry stuffing, pigs in blankets
Roasted Winter Vegetable Wellington
With seasonal vegetables wrapped in puff pastry
Homemade Welsh Gourmet Burger
With grilled Chorizo, welsh cheddar and crispy onion rings
Glamorgan Turkey, Gammon Ham and Fresh Tarragon Pie
Pan Roasted Fillet of Sea Bass
On a bed of Chorizo, samphire and sauté potatoes
10-12oz hand cut Local Ribeye Steak + (£5)
Cooked to your liking
Festive Hunters Chicken
Butterflied chicken breast, barbeque sauce, cured bacon, grilled cheese and cranberry sauce

PUDDING
All served with custard, cream or ice cream
Christmas Pudding
Filled with minced fruits and almonds served with a warm brandy sauce
Baileys Cheesecake
Double Chocolate Fudge Cake
Chocolate Amaretto Torte
Trio of Ice Cream
Your choice of Welsh farmhouse ice cream. Add a liqueur for £2.
Apple & Cinnamon Crumble
Citrus Sorbet

ADD SOME FIZZ
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House Champagne *1 Bottle £27• 2 Bottles £45*

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PICTURED (left to right) are Deputy Mayor's consort Jayne Norman, Deputy Mayor of Barry Margaret Wilkinson, Michelle O'Neil-Kiddie, The Right Reverend Bishop June Osborne, Rev Kevin Lake Team Vicar, Rector Ben Atkinson and Anthony Brown.

Church roof is re-dedicated at All Saints

ON September 9, All Saints' Church Barry had a re-dedication of the church roof by The Right Reverend June Osborne, Bishop of Llandaff.

The church is two years into a three year project, and following many fundraising events and grant applications, work on the new roof began in January 2018. The work was done by Camilleri Roofing contractors and was completed in March.

Bishop June led the celebratory service which was accompanied by the All Saints' Church choir and Blackweir Brass, which included students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

At the re-dedication and blessing of the roof, a large slate plaque was unveiled to commemorate the occasion.

A wooden plaque had also been made, listing all the partners that have supported the project. Grants were received from the Heritage Lottery Fund, National Churches Trust, Welsh Churches Act, Garfield Weston Foundation, All Churches Trust, James Pantyfedwen Foundation and Barry Town Council.

The service was attended by Michelle O'Neil-Kiddie from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Anthony Brown from the National Churches Trust, Marco Camilleri of Camilleri Roofing and the deputy mayor of Barry Margaret Wilkinson and her consort, Jayne Norman.

The chairman of the project, Paul Donovan outlined the achievements to-date of the project and said: "The final stage will be concentrating on the community element which we hope will be completed by March 2019".

As part of a fundraising exercise, a number of placemats and coasters had been made from the original slate roof, dating back to 1908. Two coasters were presented to Bishop June during the service and the remainder sold to raise money for the project.

Garden receives donation boost

Georgia Bennett and Cllr Ken Lloyd at West House Gardens.

IN Penarth, West House garden's eye-catching transformation received a generous boost on recently with a new public bench and table.

Cllr Ken Lloyd and his consort, Ms Georgia Bennett donated the items in commemoration of their service as Penarth's 2017-18 Town Mayor and Consort but also, and more importantly, in memory of their late spouses, Joan Lloyd and John Bennett.

The donation and installation was marked with a ceremony on September 14, attended by friends, colleagues and well-wishers, along with the current Town Mayor Cllr Jon Luxton.

The seating provides a peaceful, contemplative space in the public garden, serving as a suitable tribute to Ken and Georgia's loved ones, along with their tireless work as Mayor and Consort.

This newest addition is the latest in the ongoing transformation of West House Garden and the successful Penarth in Bloom project.

Whitmore High School

Year 6 Open Evening
Thursday 27th September
from 5pm-7pm

Whitmore High School is delighted to invite parents and students for a presentation and personal tour of the school in preparation for entry in September 2019. Newly-opened for boys and girls in September 2018, the school offers parents the highest standards of education, behaviour and well-being - including a history of outstanding examination results. Please visit if you are looking for a caring environment where students are supported and encouraged to excel.

Open mornings and tours will also be available from 15-26 October 9am - 10.30am.

Please attend or contact the school for further information.

Website:
www.whitmorehigh.org
Twitter:
@Whitmore High School

ABOVE: Nathan Spackman (left) and Barrie Dyer (right) receive the cheque for Barry Rotary Club from Vale mayor Leighton Rowlands.

Barry Round Table receive Mayor's Foundation grant

MEMBERS of Barry Round Table have received a £250 grant from the Vale of Glamorgan's Mayor's Foundation Grant Fund 2018/19.

The charity was the first organisation to receive financial support from this year's foundation, and chairman Barry Dyer was pleased to accept the cheque from Vale Mayor Cllr Leighton Rowlands.

Barry Round Table is a club for young men, who aim to help and support the community in any way they can. They also focus heavily on the health and wellbeing of individuals, recently focusing on male mental health.

One of their 2018 goals is to increase membership numbers. This would help them to hold more events such as the elderly Christmas dinners and the Parents' First Aid courses, which would complement bigger events such as The Barry Santa Sleigh. The club would use the grants to purchase branded items, to boost the club's status in efforts to attract new members.

Vale Mayor Cllr Leighton Rowlands said: "I am very pleased to present Barry Round Table with a grant from the Mayor's Foundation Grant Fund 2018/19. I hope this will help the charity to gain new members and continue the hard work they do in the community.

"I believe that supporting community groups, the voluntary sector and not for profit organisations across the Vale is vital, and I am happy to support as many groups as possible, to ensure they continue to thrive."

The Vale Mayor Cllr Leighton Rowlands, launched the Mayor's Foundation Grant Fund 2018/19, with the aim to offer grants to community groups, the voluntary sector and not-for-profit organisations towards the cost of initiatives within the Vale, that helps to support the Council's vision of 'strong communities with a bright future'.

The specific funding available each financial year to be allocated as part of this grant fund scheme is £5,000.

For more information, or to apply for this funding, you can download the application form and guidance notes from the Vale website or email TheMayor@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Local company gives a helping hand to church

LYNDSAY Ellis @ Vale Funeral Service has given a helping hand to a local church's community work in Cadoxton.

The community hall belonging to Mount Pleasant Baptist was damaged during the snow last March, preventing its use over the last six months. This meant every group or club needed to move into the church building, leading to increased wear and tear.

While insurance covered the replacement roof and floor for the hall, they didn't have the funds to repair the floor of the Oasis.

Andy Gibbs, minister in training, said: "We used the Oasis, a room to the back of the church building, to keep the groups running but the increased wear on the floor was really starting to notice. We didn't have the funds to replace it, so we reached out to Vale Funeral Services for help."

Lyndsay at Vale Funeral Services came to their rescue and gave them a gift enabling them to replace the floor, lifting the whole feel of the room. "We are so grateful," said Andy; "With Lyndsay's help the room remains a community resource, looks great and is so easy to keep clean it's amazing.

Lyndsay of the Vale Funeral Services said: "It is a privilege to help the church family of Mount Pleasant who we work regulary with and are always so welcoming. As soon as Pastor Gibbs contacted us advising of this damage due to the adverse weather, there was no hesitation to help by Vale Funerals donating the £750 for the flooring.

"Nicki, the team and I wish them every success and thank them also for their prayers and continued support to Nicki during her continued difficult cancer journey."

Time for tweed worldwide on the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride!

ON Sunday, September 30, more than 120,000 distinguished gentlefolk in over 650 cities and towns worldwide – including Penarth and Cardiff – will don their cravats, tustle their ties, press their tweed, and sit astride their classic and vintage-styled motorcycles to raise funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and mental health.

"Our focus," said Dave Lowes, one of the organisers of the local Distinguished Gentleman's Ride (DGR), "is on gentlemen who have been dealt a tough hand in life.

"In particular, we raise funds for research into prostate cancer, and mental health and suicide prevention programs, as part of our mission to support men's health globally.

"These funds are invested by our partners, the Movember Foundation, who are the world's largest men's health organisation."

Cardiff and the Vale will be hosting its own stage of the ride with over 250 riders departing from Cardiff civic centre, winding their way through Barry and the Vale expecting to arrive on Penarth promenade around 11.30am.

Mr Lowes and fellow organiser Peter Harding, both keen bikers, said the ride has grown in numbers and popularity in Cardiff since it first took part in 2015.

"This year the ride is attracting participation from celebrities such as Phil Campbell of Motörhead, George North the rugby international, and Richard Jones of The Stereophonics," said Mr Lowes.

Describing the atmosphere on Penarth promenade, he said: "It is electric, with bands playing among the gleaming bikes and well-dressed folk."

Details of the ride can be found at *www.gentlemansride.com* and the organisers can be contacted on Facebook via the Cardiff DGR page.

This year's ride fund total currently stands at some $2,987,540 with over 33,616 riders taking part across the globe.

For a look at last year's DGR, visit *https://youtu.be/yrPptSdULbM*.

MP welcomes the Vale Youth Forum to Westminster

VALE MP Alun Cairns has welcomed members of the Vale Youth Forum to the Wales Office in Whitehall, as the group visit Westminster to learn more about the workings of national politics.

The Youth Forum, made up of young people in the Vale up to the age of 18, aims to make a difference by enabling young people to voice their opinions about local issues and influence policy decisions.

The group is engaged with the Vale Council and is helping to energise and encourage young people who have a passion for politics.

Mr Cairns was delighted to address the group at Gwydyr House where they discussed his role as Secretary of State for Wales and the work he undertakes as their local MP.

'Come ye thankful people, come'

WHEN Thomas William co-founded Bethesda'r Fro Chapel in 1807, at Eglwys Brewis, he ministered to his congregation while farming in Flemingston.

No doubt he discussed the state of farming and the weather with his near neighbour 'Mad Ned', Edward Williams alias Iolo Morganwg.

Iolo took a keen interest in the farming in Glamorgan and took exception to those commentors who criticised its methods just on the strength of a peep over the hedges as they made their way through the county.

The Vale was once called the Garden of Wales and Bethesda'r Fro will be celebrating the harvest on Sunday, September 23 at 3pm when the service will be led by Mr Russell Davies of Cardiff. Visitors will be made most welcome.

Nigel Williams

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

The Vale Resort welcomes chef Dean from the USA

AN executive chef who has cooked for Snoop Dogg, James Blunt and Barbara and Jenna Bush (daughters of former US president George W Bush) has been appointed to oversee all restaurants and catering at The Vale Resort – including Hensol Castle.

Dean Milburn (42) originally from Baltimore, Maryland, joins the resort following a decade of working in the catering industry in the United States, with a further eight years based in the UK.

His preceding role was three years spent as the senior head chef at the University of Bristol, where he catered for thousands of students and academic clients.

He said: "Since joining, I've been developing menus that combine local, fresh ingredients to create innovative dishes with a US twist and a touch of Eastern fusion. One particular favourite that has gone down especially well is wasabi and nori wrapped monkfish with kimchi.

"The redevelopment of the historic Hensol Castle was a big draw for me joining the Vale Resort, and we're beginning to work towards the exciting launch of a new destination restaurant overlooking the lake."

When Mr Milburn returned to the UK in 2010 with his wife and newborn baby, the 400-year-old castle was derelict. It has since undergone a £10 million refurbishment, reopening in 2015 as a first-class conference and wedding venue.

As part of that redevelopment, a 120-cover top-end restaurant is due to be launched in the next 18 months.

He will be overseeing the resort's three restaurants: the Vale Grill and bar, its signature restaurant, which has an AA rosette; the afternoon tea conservatory; and the forthcoming Hensol castle restaurant. He will also be responsible for all catering across the resort for conferences and weddings.

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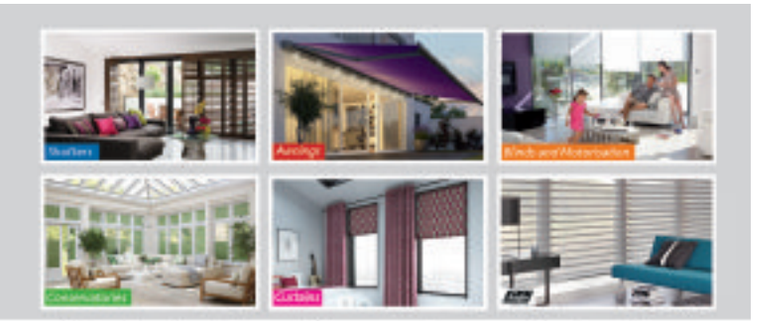

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Family Notices

Braithwaite
Ronald Matthew *(Ron)*

It is with great sadness we have to announce the passing of Ron, of Stacey Road, Dinas Powys, on 11th September 2018.

Loving husband of Sylvia, loved brother to Rita and a very dear brother in law to Rita and his many nieces and nephews.

Funeral will take place at Barry Crematorium on Monday 24th September at 10am.

Family flowers only requested – donations, if desired, to Cancer Research and can be made at the end of the service or c/o Green Willow Funerals.

All enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. Tel: 029 2051 4627.

SKUSE
Oscar Geoffrey (Geoff)

On Friday, 14th September at Llandough Hospital. Beloved husband of Marguerite, devoted father of Robert and Joanne, father-in-law of Julian and Emma, dear gramps of Emily, Joshua, Bella and Toby, brother-in-law of Christopher and Rhuddian.

Funeral Service will be held at A.G. Adams funeral home, Barry on Wednesday 26th September, 2018 at 12 noon, thereafter to Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Crematorium, Barry for 1pm.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if desired, would be appreciated for Cancer Research Wales via a retiring collection at the church/crematorium.

All enquiries to A.G.Adams Funeral Home, Barry CF62 8NA. Tel 01446 735128.

SUTTON
Bryan Charles

Peacefully on 11th September 2018 at Marie Curie Hospice Penarth (Holme Tower), Bryan, aged 63 years, beloved husband of Gail, much loved Dad of Claire & Sam, Ian & Jenn and Lucy & James. Adored doode to Jack, twins Isobel & Tommy, Ava and Grace. A loved brother of Colin and son-in-law of Joyce and the late John, also sadly missed by sister-in-law Dawn.

Bryan will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G.Adams Funeralcare until the service in the chapel of rest on Tuesday 25th September at 11.45am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Marie Curie Hospice Penarth c/o the funeral director.

SALTER
Marjorie Joan

Peacefully on 9th September at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Marjorie, well known and committed church member of St Illtud's Church and beloved wife of the late Bert. Much loved mum of the late Peter and special daughter-in-law to Janet. A cherished granny and great granny of Louise and Dominick, Naomi and Steven, Jessica, Sophie and Rebecca.

Marjorie will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Tuesday, 25th September at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be sent to The Intensive Care Unit at The Princess Of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, CF31 1RQ in memory of Marjorie.

STURGESS
Anthony *(Tony)*

Peacefully at The Forge Care Centre on 30th August. Loving Dad to Paul, Tracy, David, Robert, Linda, Angela and Anthony.

Will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors until the service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium Port Road on Friday, 28th September at 2pm.

Family flowers only, donations, if desired, can be made at the service or sent to Alzheimer's Society.

HOARE
Donna Marie

Peacefully on 17th September surrounded by her loving children, Donna, aged 44 years, of Lougher Place, St Athan.

Loving mother of Michael, Rebecca, Ashley and John, mother-in-law to Nathan and a much-loved sister and aunt.

Donna will be sadly missed by all her family, friends and her dog, Brambles.

Funeral Wednesday 26th September. Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be made to Ty Hafan for the loving care given to Donna's son, John-John c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, 2 Hilda House, The Square, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 5NP. Tel: 01656 860545.

WHITTY
Gerald Stephen *(Steve)*

Peacefully on 11th September 2018, at Llandough Hospital, in the presence of his loving family.

Steve, adored husband of Cherie, beloved father and grandfather.

Steve will be greatly missed by all his family and his many friends.

Resting at James Summers Funeralcare, Lavernock Road, Penarth CF64 5UP until the funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday 1st October at 11am. No flowers by request.

Memorial Service

THOMAS
Norman Owen

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Norman Owen Thomas, who passed away aged 94 years, will be held at Nolton Church, Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend on Thursday 27th September 2018 at 11.30am.

He was a police officer in Bridgend, Laleston, Porthcawl and Cardiff and a past Master of Morgannwg Lodge.

He played rugby for Penycraig, Bridgend, Maesteg, Ogmore Vale, Glamorgan and Welsh Police.

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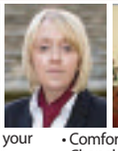

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In Memory

STOKES
Doris and Arthur
19th September 2017 • 9th October 2016

To hear your voices, to see your smiles, to sit and talk to you a while. To be together in the same old way, would be our dearest wish today.

Forever in our hearts and thoughts.
Lynne, June and families xx

IN MEMORY
LYE
Kay
23rd September 2012
My dearest Kay, you are always in our thoughts.
We love you and miss you.
Ron and family *xxx*

IN MEMORY
JAMES
Val
23rd September 2015
Always in our hearts and thoughts.
Dearly missed by husband Viv, children Martin, Gareth, Keeley, Steven, Viv and Mel, grandchildren and great grandchildren *xxx*

Public Notice

LICENSING ACT 2003
Section 17 (5)
Notice of Application for a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT
An application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a **PREMISES LICENCE**
To permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises shown below. Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of: Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk.
Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below:
Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.
NAME OF APPLICANT:
Halo Leisure
NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PREMISES: **Bridgend Life Centre, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4AH.**
STATEMENT OF INTENDED LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES: **Supply of alcohol - Monday-Wednesday 10.00-23.00; Thursday-Sunday 10.00-02.00.**
Regulated entertainment Monday-Sunday 10.00-24.00
DATE BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MUST BE MADE: **4th October 2018.** This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely BCBC, for 28 consecutive days.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.

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Top performance by the Vale Surf Lifesaving Club

VALE Surf Lifesaving Club's first season on the beach is drawing to a close with a very impressive fourth place overall at the Welsh Ocean Championships held on September 1-2 at Porthcawl.

Despite a small team and up against larger, more established clubs, Vale SLSC posted superb results coming second in the ski aggregate and third in the board aggregate, and second in the Open competition.

The team consisted of Masters, Open and Youth competitors with everyone putting in excellent individual performances and showing great team spirit.

As well as Vale regulars Sarah, Simon, Steve, Dom and Nia the club was proud to be represented by the following new Masters all competing in their first competition - Darren Baker, Sue Baker, Claire Connolly, Hugh Connolly, Dave Hopkin, Colin Peterson and Alison Woolcock.

The Masters medal winners were as follows: gold - Simon Parker & Steve Baker double ski, silver - Steve Baker 1km run, Simon Parker Ski and Oceanman, bronze - Steve Baker Beach Flags and Ski, Simon Parker - Board and 1km Run, Sarah Baker and Nia Hopkin - Double Ski, Sarah Baker - Oceanwoman and Ski.

Sue Baker, competing in her first Masters competition, won a very impressive bronze medal in the 1km run and afterwards paid tribute to fellow Masters competitor Anthony Aylen from Rest Bay Club, who ran alongside her offering encouragement and support to get her through to the finish line.

The Open team consisting of Kelsea Peterson, Ellie Peterson, Brooke Peterson and Dafydd Nicholls

produced brilliant results to finish second overall in their category.

Kelsea won gold in the Beach Flag competition with Ellie winning silver and Brooke winning bronze. Kelsea, Ellie and Brooke also teamed up to win silver in the Board Relay, silver in the Ski Relay and silver in the Beach Relay.

Brooke and Daf also won silver medals in the Beach Sprint competition with Kelsea winning a silver in Board and Ellie in Ski.

Bronze medals were won by Brooke in Ski, Kelsea in 1km run, Kelsea and Ellie in Tube Rescue, Kelsea and Ellie in Double Ski, Kelsea, Ellie and Brooke in Taplin Relay.

Declan Ewington moved up an age group to join Daf in winning a bronze medal in the Tube Rescue. Dominic Lee also moved up from Masters to join Daf and Declan in the relays.

The Youth team consisting of Abigail Baker, Alice Connolly, Ben Ewington, Declan Ewington, Tesni Gardiner, Louie Gwatkin, Reuben Hopkin, Emily Parker and Brooke Peterson finished in a very impressive fourth place in their category despite being one of the smallest teams in their section.

Whether medal-winning or not, outstanding performances were posted across the board with the Youth team members displaying great camaraderie over the two days of competition.

Gold medal winning performances were as follows :- Reuben Hopkin - under-15 Board Race, under-15 Ski, under-15 Oceanman, under-15 Beach Flags; Reuben Hopkin and Ben Ewington - Board Rescue, Tube Rescue, Double Ski.

In the under-17 ski race Declan Ewington put in an amazing performance to win the individual Ski race despite having just returned to competition after a long break due to illness.

He also teamed up with Reuben and Ben to win the Ski Relay.

Silver medals were won by: Abigail Baker under-15 Ski, Ben Ewington under-15 Ski and under-15 Oceanman, Reuben Hopkin under-15 Beach Sprint and 1km Run, Brooke Peterson under-17 Beach Flags and Oceanwoman.

Tesni Gardiner and Brooke won silver in the under-17 Double Ski, Reuben, Ben and Declan won silver in the Taplin Relay with Alice Connolly, Emily Parker, Ben and Reuben winning silver in the under-15 Beach Relay.

Youth team bronze medals were won by: Reuben under-15 Swim, Alice under-15 Beach Sprint and under-15 Beach Flags, Brooke under-15 1km Run, Alice and Emily under-15 Board Rescue, Abigail Baker and Emily Parker under-15 Tube Rescue, Board Relay - Declan, Ben, Reuben and Ski Relay - Alice, Emily, Tesni.

Thanks to Gemma and Steph for their fantastic catering throughout the event and to the coaches for all the hard work put in during the winter months to produce these results.

Finally, a huge well done to each and every member of the team not only for their outstanding performances but for their team spirit, sportsmanship and for representing their club so positively over the two days of competition.

JP

Millwood bowlers' weekend of finals

LAST weekend saw the finals of the mens and womens sections take place at Millwood Bowls Club.

With a number of players in more than one final the organisers are to be congratulated on arranging a fair running order for all finalists

The finals were played in a good competitive spirit to a high standard and it is fair to say all players knew they had been in a game.

The finalists were well-supported by members, families and friends, and after the trophy presentations at the conclusion of the matches every one sat down to a fish and chip supper and refreshments in the clubhouse late into the night, bringing the curtain down on another season.

List of winners and runners-up (winners followed by runners-up:

Mens champion: Nigel Tutton, Alan Anniss; Men's novice: David Lewis, Robert Browne; men's triples: Alan Evans, Mickey Lucas, Alan Bickley; Kelvin Lewys, Robert Browne, David Lougher; men's handicap: Mickey Lucas; Alan Anniss; men's two-wood singles: Nigel Tutton, Mickey Lucas; men's two-wood pairs: Arthur Norris, Brian Crockford; Mickey Lucas, David Lougher; men's pairs: David Woodfin and Robert Browne; Alan Bumford and Alan Bickley; ladies champion: Christine Sewell; Jeanette Phipps; ladies pairs: Bonny Paige and Carol Norman; Sandra Jodrell and Christine Sewell; ladies triples: Sandra Jodrell, June Davies, Jane Selley; Carol Norman, Bonny Paige, Ann Davies.

BH

Finals day at St Athan Golf Club

Ladies championship finalists Erin Allison and Carol Morgan.

Club captain Liz Thomas with the Championship finalists Dale Sullivan (left) and Craig Sherman (right) - see more pictures at glamorgan-gem.co.uk

THE members of St Athan Golf Club were grateful that the recent bad weather didn't materialize on Saturday, September 15, when they gathered to support those competing for the club's most prestigious titles.

Finals day is the culmination of various competitions played throughout the season, the outcome of which sees the best golfers' names engraved on the silverware and appended onto the coveted honours boards.

The course was presented magnificently with the pins positioned fairly for everyone, including the green-keepers who were competing against each other in the main event of the day – the Club Championship.

This 36 hole match between Craig Sherman and Dale Sullivan, club champions in 2016 and 2017 respectively, was expected to be tight throughout, so the spectators were astonished to see Dale go five up after just nine holes and remain in that position through 18.

Refreshed after a light lunch, Craig brought out a different game for the afternoon session, executing some excellent golf shots and keeping the match alive, eventually having to concede 2 & 1 on the 35th resulting in Dale retaining the Club Championship title.

Paul Michael and Keith Lewis came head-to-head in their quest to win the Plate competition, a position neither of these golfers had been before.

With the score standing with Paul two up at the halfway point the match 'was there for the taking'.

The second 18 started off as a real 'see-saw' competition, one player winning one hole and then giving it straight back to his opponent on the next.

Unfortunately for Keith he couldn't keep the momentum of the see-saw and graciously conceded to Paul 4 & 3.

Steve Kenyon and Eric Hallett, two members from the veterans section must be congratulated for seeing off their younger counterparts earlier in the year and thus securing their place in the final for the Rabbits trophy.

Eric was the first to admit that he couldn't remember the last time he'd actually played 36 holes in one day and at the end of this match he still couldn't remember, outperforming Steve and taking the win at the 28th.

The Dan Archer final is the only match not played 'off scratch'; 32 players initially qualify to play in this knock-out competition with each round played over 18 holes and full handicap difference implemented.

Terry Punter (15 hcp) and Paul Dobbins (17 hcp) both fought valiantly through the stages however in the finals match Terry didn't commit to the ruthlessness required of the task and Dobbins sealed the win 6 & 5.

It was a shame that any winner had to emerge from the Juniors Championship match - brothers Freddie and Ralph O'Carroll are both extremely popular members of the club and therefore it was difficult to show any allegiance to one or the other.

With a fice shot handicap advantage from the start and a few years more experience the game should have gone in Ralph's favour; however, as with all sibling rivalry, Freddie was determined to prove that he could beat his brother – which he accomplished with a 5 & 3 win.

Jackie Hawkins faced Sue Davies in the 18 hole Millennium Plate competition and this game proved to be nip 'n' tuck throughout with just one hole to Jackie's advantage at the turn.

Jackie maintained her composure and after securing the victory was the first person to congratulate Sue on the tremendous game played.

On paper the Ladies Championship between Erin Allison and Carol Morgan was already 'signed, sealed & delivered'; Erin had lifted this trophy five times in the previous six years.

Carol bravely went into battle despite having to play off scratch, which entailed conceding 19 shots before the match had even started.

Envisaging the game to be over after 10 holes Carol was delighted to be only four down after eight, however reality soon came back into play with Erin showing no mercy, concluding the match 7 & 6 and once again deservedly being crowned Ladies Champion.

The club captain, Liz Thomas, was on hand throughout the day to offer encouragement to each of the finalists, and at close of day she congratulated not only the competitors but the supporters, the caterer, the caddies and the referees, stating that once again she was proud to be the figure-head of such a welcoming golf club.

CM

Positive steps for the under-13s

The under-13s in action against Bridgend Sports.

ENCOURAGING signs of improvement were evident in Llantwit Major RFC under-13s' game away to Bridgend Sports RFC this weekend.

Although once again hampered by illness, the Tigers showed great strength of character and resolve against a very strong and fast opposition in, at times, very wet conditions.

With a marked improvement by everyone in communication and team work from last week's game, standing out was the man of the match, inside centre Tom Lamerton, who demonstrated maturity and awareness in organising the backs in defence and great determination in making many crucial tackles.

Bridgend Sports were ultimately worthy winners, but a highlight of the day was the attitude of their coaching and management team who showed great rugby spirit in rotating their players and actively encouraging the visiting team.

This was a real example of how the game should be played and should be applauded.

Congratulations to Bridgend Sports for their win, and to the Tigers for taking more steps in the right direction.

Llantwit Major: Kian Barnett, Flynn Barry, Dan Bartlett, Marley Bracher, Robert Dixon, Blake Gifford, Ethan Harding, Kai Harris, Carwyn John, Tom Jones, Kelyn Joseph, Tom Lamerton and Tom Sheldon.

SJ

Epic game for under-16s

COWBRIDGE RFC under-16s maintained their strong start to the season in an exciting encounter with Barry, despite the squad being reduced to the bare bones by a mystery illness.

Those Cowbridge players that were available, some playing out of position, come out of the blocks well and after several excellent phases of play Rhys D Williams scored a try in the corner which he also converted.

From the kick off Barry attacked strongly but stout defence from Morgan Thomas, Will Clarke, Max Hall and others put Barry under pressure with Kofi Jones eventually intercepting to score under the posts.

The Barry players' heads, however, did not go down and they were soon on the attack using the power of their pack and physical backline to good effect.

Despite strong defence from Louis Decaux, Harry Whittaker and others the Barry pressure showed and they crossed the line for a converted try.

The contest continued to be closely contested up to half-time with Cowbridge scoring two more tries through the strong-running Kofi Jones, one after a crunching tackle from Carwyn Harris, while Barry countered with hard attritional work for which they were also rewarded with two further tries.

Shortly after half-time Barry exploited the lack of a Cowbridge full back to score through their pacy number 9.

This was followed by the play of the match from Cowbridge where strong running from Luke Gregory set off Harry Whittaker down the wing, who exchanged passes neatly before Kofi Jones got over the line for a try.

The closing stages saw excellent defensive work from players, including Lucas Reid and Louis Decaux, before two late tries from Cowbridge closed out the win.

The first of these was from a flowing move with Ioan Davies and Rhys Williams all running strongly before Morgan Thomas offloaded neatly for Kofi Jones to score.

The second came from a Rhys Williams interception setting up Kofi Jones for his sixth try of the afternoon (with Rhys D Williams adding his fifth conversion).

Both sets of players were clearly exhausted at the end of an exciting contest which was well refereed by Peter Bruce.

JH

Vale Cricket Club celebrate successful season for teams

LAST Friday Vale Cricket Club celebrated their season with a function at their clubhouse.

The first team finished fourth in their league for the second year running and the seconds enjoyed some tremendous success in winning their league.

First XI captain JP Davies started proceedings by giving his report on the season making firm points that the squad is a strong one and should look to improve upon their achievements this season in order to move forward.

JP then went about presenting the first team awards to the worthy winners. James Snelson won the batsman of the year trophy having hit 399 league runs in 11 innings averaging 39.90 with a high score of 84 and scoring four half centuries.

Other players contributed well with the bat, notably Alex Upham (432 runs-28.80), Harry Withers (261 runs-26.10), Dean Oram (238 runs-29.75) and Brendan McCay (230 runs-28.75).

Vale veteran Darren Upham picked up the first team bowlers trophy having taken 29 wickets for 396 runs an economy rate of 2.74 and an average of 13.66, well done Darren on those fantastic statistics - Wales over-50s are counting down the days until your 50th on their wallchart!

Darren's son Alex was also in the wickets (28-557-19.89). Other contributions were made by Sean Rowland (12-281-23.42) and JP Davies (11-270-24.55).

Alex Upham collected the fielder of the year award having taken nine catches. Alex's natural ability and practice makes him one of the best fielders in the league and his assurance under the high ball, speed and ability to stop a travelling ball is excellent.

Other contributions were made by JP Davies who took six catches, James Snelson and Sean Rowland who took five catches each.

Wicket keeper Harry Withers picked up 15 catches and two stumpings in support of the bowlers' efforts. Fellow keeper Ash Taylor took four catches and claimed four stumpings when stepping up for the first team as well.

Vale's table-topping second team report was read by vice-captain Mark Francis who filled the gap left by second team captain Matthew Thomas who is rumoured to still be celebrating his team's season somewhere in Dublin.

The captain's report resembled Leo Tolstoy's epic War and Peace and was delivered word for word as promised by Mark with some anecdotes.

Mathew Thomas thanked his players for their overwhelming support, commitment, pride and effort as well as taking time to thank the tremendous in-house ground team for whom there are not enough superlatives.

The second team batsman of the year was awarded to the captain Matthew Thomas who hit a colossal 1037 runs in 15 innings averaging 103.70 with a high score of 164no including 4 centuries and six half centuries, well done skipper!

Mark Francis (553 runs-50.27) and Gareth Kelland (285 runs-57) also contributed well to the run factory. Steve Hiles who represented both the first and second team equally scored 332 runs averaging 36.89 with a high score of 126.

Tom Lazarus picked up the bowlers award for the seconds taking 24 wickets, conceding 263 runs with an economy rate of 3.25 and averaging 10.96. Tom also picked up a season and personal best of 7-23 in the match against Machen.

Idris Merry (16-258), Greg Andrews (16-357) and Joseph Davies (11-217) all picked up wickets and bowled well.

Gethin Merry and Aaron Davies who represented the first and second team picked up 15 wickets each and showed tremendous courage and confidence in their ability to bowl well when stepping up to play for the firsts, thank you and well done boys.

Tom Taylor also picked up a total of 12 wickets in his return to cricket this year as he represented both sides.

The second team fielder of the year was awarded to Ash Taylor. The wicket keeper has been in fine form in his return to cricket this year.

He is a constant competitor and entertainer in the field with his encouragement and comic timing. Ash managed a grand total of 17 dismissals behind the stumps (eight for the first team and the rest for the seconds).

The club is delighted to have you back Ash!

Other contributions in the field for the seconds came from Matthew Thomas (10), Mark Francis (seven), Greg Andrews and Tom Lazarus (six each).

Congratulations to the second team who are deservedly champions of their division.

Travelling away to Monmouth on the last day of the season needing five points to win the league was a tremendous effort and they managed this before tea!

The attitude and commitment shown by the players has been excellent and the atmosphere is simply second to none.

They have been superbly led by their captain Matthew Thomas who has led by example with the bat and confidence on the field but has never been shy to gather opinions.

Well done to all that contributed to this very successful season.

Finally, the club would like to thank all captains; JP Davies (first team), Matthew Thomas (second team) and James Snelson (midweek) for their time, commitment and effort in leading their sides.

The club have also managed to field a third XI on some occasions this year and they have been led by Mark Stephens.

The ground staff, who between them stepped up to take control of the pitch and the surrounding area, and the many club officials who work tirelessly to ensure the club is run successfully both on and off the pitch, your work in invaluable.

Our many club sponsors who continue to support the club in achieving our vision.

A special thanks to Glyn who co-ordinated the presentation evening and to the Hog Father for supplying us with a delicious hog roast - until next season..

HW

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for September 17:

1st Glyn Williams &Vida Halford 69.58%, 2nd Debbie & Simon Richards 66.82%, 3rd Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 64.79%.

LE

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15 65 BMW 330 DXDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic (258bhp), pro nav, 19"alloys, privacy glass, 25k, red, full leather **£19495**

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14 64 BMW 430 3.0 DXDrive M Sport 2dr Automatic, sat nav, electric glass sunroof, 19"alloys, 39k, blue, full leather.....**£19995**

16 16 BMW 435 DXDrive M Sport 2dr, BMW warranty June 2019, sat nav, 19"alloys, 15k, grey, full leather **£25995**

15 65 BMW 740 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Dec 2018, sat nav, electric glass sunroof, black, full leather **£34995**

16 16 BMW 740 D XDRIVE M Sport 4dr automatic (315bhp), BMW warranty June 2019, Premium package, 20"alloys, head-up display, electric glass sunroof, 18k, white, full leather.....**£39995**

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17 67 BMW X1 2.0DXDrive M Sport 5dr, BMW warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, heated seats, privacy glass, 11k, silver **£23495**

16 16 BMW X3 30D M Sport XDRIVE 5dr automatic, BMW warranty April 2019, 19"alloys, sat nav, Bluetooth, 14k, grey **£26495**

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16 16 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.0 TD4 180 HSE Luxury 5dr Automatic, Land Rover warranty Sept 2019, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, black, full leather **£30995**

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17 17 VW TOUAREG 3.0 TDI R-LINE 5dr Automatic, VW warranty April 2020, reverse camera, sat nav, pan roof, 20"alloys, privacy glass, white, 19k, full leather **£29995**

16 16 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D4 R-Design Nav 4WD 5dr Geartronic, Volvo warranty May 2019, sat nav, heated seats, high performance sound system, grey, half-leather **£21995**

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17 67 ALFA ROMEO GIULIA 2.2 TD SUPER 4dr automatic, Alfa warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, 18"alloys, 2k, red, full leather **£22995**
15 15 AUDI A1 1.6 TDI SE 3dr, CD player, air-con, Alloys, DAB, silver **£9995**
15 65 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI Ultra 110 SE Technik 5dr, Audi warranty Nov 2018, sat nav, cruise, privacy glass, 26k, white **£13495**
14 14 AUDI A3 2.0 TDI S-Line 4dr S-Tronic Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, comfort pack, cruise, 19k, red, half-leather **£17995**
15 15 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI 150 Black Edition Plus 4dr, 19"Alloys, heated seats, Bang & Olufsen, red, 17k, half-leather **£17495**
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13 63 BMW 116 D EfficientDynamics 5dr, air-con, Bluetooth, red **£8495**
17 17 BMW 116 D Efficient Dynamics Plus 5dr, BMW warranty April 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, dab, white **£14495**
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16 16 BMW 120 D Sport 5dr (190bhp) BMW warranty August 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, pdc front & rear, 22k, met blue **£14795**
16 16 BMW 330 2.0 E M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 17k, black **£17995**
17 67 BMW 330 2.0 E SE 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat av, 18"M sport alloys, 11k, privacy glass, white **£20995**
15 65 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, privacy glass, xenons, 31k, black, full leather **£17995**
17 67 BMW 530 E M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Dec 2020, comfort pack, sat nav, reverse camera, 12k, black, full leather **£34995**
16 65 BMW 640 D M Sport Gran Coupe 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty March 2019, sat nav, 19"Alloys, black, full leather **£24995**
15 65 DS DS3 1.2 Pure Tech DStyle Nav 3dr, Citroen warranty Dec 2018, sat nav, Bluetooth, DAB, 14k, white ..**£8995**
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18 67 HONDA HR-V 1.6 I-DTEC EX 5dr, Honda warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, heated seats, grey, 3k, full leather **£19995**
16 66 HYUNDAI i10 1.0 SE 5dr, Hyundai warranty July 2022, Bluetooth, Air-Con, Cruise, 4k, blue....**£6995**
15 65 JAGUAR XF 2.0 D 180 R Sport 4dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Dec 2018, sat nav, pan roof, cruise, white, full leather **£18995**
15 64 JAGUAR XF 2.2 D Premium Luxury 4dr automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 32k, white, full leather **£15495**
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15 15 KIA CEED 1.6 CRDI 3 Estate, Kia warranty August 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, white....**£8995**
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17 17 MINI CLUBMAN 1.5 COOPER 5dr, MINI warranty May 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, 8k, white **£14995**
12 12 MINI CLUBMAN 2.0 SD 5dr Estate, chilli pack, pan roof, heated seats, white, full leather **£7995**
17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DIG-T Acenta 5dr, Nissan warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, tech pack, red **£16495**
15 15 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr (130bhp) pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, white....**£12995**
15 15 PEUGEOT 208 1.0 VTI Active 3dr, air-con, cruise, Bluetooth, 22k, grey **£5995**
16 16 PEUGEOT 208 1.6 BlueHDI GT Line 3dr, Peugeot warranty August 2019, Bluetooth, cruise, grey, half-leather **£9995**
12 62 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 ED4 Prestige 5dr, lux pack, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, privacy glass, pan roof, 19"Alloys, pDC front & rear, fuji white, full leather **£17995**
15 65 RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI Energy Dynamique Medianav 5dr, sat nav, cruise, blue **£6995**
15 65 RENAULT TWINGO 1.0 SCe Play 5dr, Renault warranty Oct 2018, air-con, USB, 13k, blue....**£5995**
17 67 SEAT ATECA 1.6 TDI Ecomotive Technology SE 5dr, Seat warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 18"alloys, grey **£16995**
17 67 SEAT LEON 1.6 TDI SE Dynamic Technology Estate, Seat warranty Sep 2020, sat nav, 17"alloys, PDC, 7k, grey **£12995**
16 16 SKODA YETI OUTDOOR 2.0 TDI SCR SE L 5dr, Skoda warranty May 2019, 17"alloys, cruise, 9k, silver, full leather **£12495**
13 13 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.6 Sport SZ-R 3dr, air-con, cruise, Bluetooth, privacy glass, black....**£6995**
16 16 SUZUKI VITARA 1.6 DDIS SZ5, Suzuki warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, pan roof, turquoise ..**£12495**
17 67 TOYOTA C-HR 1.8 Hybrid Excel 5dr Automatic, Toyota warranty Oct 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, 18"alloys, silver, half-leather **£21995**
15 15 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.6 CDTI Limited Edition 3dr, Panoramic roof, 20"alloys, 31k, white **£10795**
13 63 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI SRI Nav 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, grey **£6495**
16 16 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.6 CDTI ecoFLEX Design 5dr, Bluetooth, cruise, 28k, silver **£9495**
17 66 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.6 CDTI Design 5dr, Vauxhall warranty Feb 2020, cruise, Bluetooth, 22k, grey **£10995**
17 66 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI (170) EcoFlex SRI NAV Estate, Vauxhall warranty Jan 2020, sat nav, 17"alloys, blue **£11995**
15 15 VW BEETLE 2.0 TDI Design 3dr, Bluetooth, DAB, air-con, black **£9995**
16 66 VW GOLF 1.0 TSI Match Bluemotion Edition 5dr DSG, VW warranty Sept 2019, sat nav, heated seats, Bluetooth, cruise, silver **£14495**
14 14 VW GOLF 1.6 TDI Bluemotion Tech SE 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, DAB, blue **£8295**
16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GT 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, 23k, red....**£13995**
16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech GTD 3dr, VW warranty July 2019, sport & sound pack, 19"alloys, sat nav, 10k, white **£18995**
16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GTD 5dr, VW warranty June 2019, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, black **£15995**
16 16 VW POLO 1.4 TSI ACT BlueGT 3dr, VW warranty May 2019, Bluetooth, Heated seats, 16k, white....**£12995**
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17 17 FORD FIESTA 1.0 ECOBoost 140 ST-Line Navigation 5dr, Ford warranty July 2020, 17"alloys, sat nav, 12k, choice **£11495**

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16 16 MAZDA 2 1.5 Sport Nav 5dr, Mazda warranty June 2019, sat anv, cruise, privacy glass, red **£9495**

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2012 (62) BMW 5 Series 2.0 520d EfficientDynamics 4dr, black, 1 PREV OWNER PRO NAV LTHR B-T, OE62DZJ £8,990

2010 (59) BMW 5 Series 2.0 520d SE Business Edition Touring 5dr, black, BMW HISTORY NAVIGATN 19" B/T, VA59KFR £7,990

2014 (14) BMW M5 4.4 M DCT 4dr, blue, ONLY 36,000 FBMWSH MAJOR SPEC, LC14FVK £31,990

2015 (15) BMW X3 2.0 20d M Sport xDrive 5dr, black, JUST 1 OWNER FSH 59,000 ML NAV, LP15CZG £19,490

2014 (64) Fiat 500 1.2 Pop (s/s) 3dr, white, 1 OWNER JUST 37,000 MLS FSH, NJ64GYP £4,690

2014 (64) Ford Transit Custom 2.2 TDCi 290 L2H1 Panel Van 5dr, white, JUST 1 OWNER 80,000 MLS FSH, BX64YMS . . .£8,490 +VAT

2010 (10) Honda Civic 2.2 i-CDTi Type S GT-T 3dr, black, 79,000 MLS FSH NAV 18" PHONE, EF10RYP £5,990

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2007 (57) Mercedes-Benz E Class 3.0 E280 CDI Avantgarde 7G-Tronic 4dr, silver, FSH NAVI LTHR, MK57YRX £6,290

2013 (63) Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Acenta (s/s) 5dr, black, 46,000 MLS FSH 1 PREV OWNER, VK63GFE £6,745

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2007 (57) Mercedes-Benz E Class 3.0 E320 CDI Sport 7G-Tronic 5dr, black, NAVIGATION LEATHER SUNROOF PDC, WK57FWS .£6,490

2010 (10) Volkswagen Golf 1.6 TDI BlueMotion Tech 5dr 83.1 MPG £0 64,000 miles, black, FREE TAX LOW INS, SW10FVJ £5,990

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15 VW Polo 1.4TDi SE 5-Dr In met-red, 25,000 miles, low running costs **£8,995**

14 NISSAN Qashqai 1.5 DCi 360º Edition In white, pan roof, sat nav, camera 360° view etc **£8,995**

08 MERCEDES SLK 200K Auto In black with black leather + air scarf + 18" alloys, 68,000 miles **£8,995**

61 NISSAN Qashqai 2.0 Acenta Automatic In met-burgundy, 38,000 miles **£8,995**

61 MINI Cooper 1.6 Convertible In baby blue with cream leather, 37,000 miles, host of extras ..**£8,495**

13 RENAULT Clio 2.0 Renault Sport 3-Dr In black, 38,000 mile hot hatch **£8,495**

61 HYUNDAI IX35 Style 2WD 1.7 CRDI in silver, 52,000 miles, two owners..... **Reduced to £7,995**

11 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCi Titanium in white, 74,000 miles, ... **Reduced to £7,995**

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63 VAUXHALL Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi 5-Dr In ice blue, 45,000 mile diesel hatch **£6,995**

63 NISSAN Juke 1.5 DCi Acenta Met-burgundy, 71,000 mile diesel, great value at **£6,995**

63 KIA Rio 2 1.2 3-Dr In silver, only 11,000 miles from new **£6,995**

12 AUDI A3 SE 3-Dr 1.6 TDi In silver, 53,000 miles, £20 road tax ..... **Reduced by £1,000 to £6,995**

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10 TOYOTA Verso 1.6 TR In silver, 33,000 miles, 1 owner, ideal family SUV **£6,995**

58 FORD Focus 2.5 ST2 3-Dr In white, 78,000 mile hot hatch, great example at **£6,995**

14 RENAULT Megane 1.5 Diesel Coupe Dynamique TT Energy In black, 32,000 miles, free road tax....**£6,795**

13 VOLKSWAGEN High Up 1.0 5-Dr In white, 24,000 miles, £20 road tax, sat nav etc **£6,795**

61 MINI One 1.6 in red, 34,000 miles, very nice example at **£6,795**

64 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SE 5-Dr In met grey, 44,000 miles, a/c, etc **£6,495**

63 SKODA Roomster 1.2 TSi SE In silver, 32,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,495**

63 FORD Focus 1.6 TDCi Zetec 5-Dr In met grey, 72,000 miles, low running costs **£6,495**

13 VW Polo 1.4 Hatch 3-Dr In silver, 56,000 miles, alloys, a/c, etc **£6,495**

13 VAUXHALL Agilla 1.2 SE 5-Dr Automatic In black, 15,000 miles from new **£6,495**

64 SKODA CityGo Black Edition 5-Dr 22,000 miles, £20 road tax with sat nav etc **£5,995**

59 SKODA Octavia Laurin 2.0 TDi In silver, 57,000 miles, 1 owner, heated leather seats.....**£5,995**

14 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SE 5-Dr In met-black, 43,000 miles, a/c, alloys etc **£5,995**

14 CITROEN C3 VTR+ 1.0 5-Dr In black, 28,00 miles, £20 road tax, low insurance **£5,995**

63 FIAT 500S 1.2 in midnight indigo, 32,000 miles, £30 road tax **£5,995**

62 TOYOTA Yaris TR 1.4 D-4D 3-Dr In black, 33,000 mile diesel with reversing camera **£5,995**

60 MERCEDES B160 Blue Efficiency Sport In black, 64,000 miles, nice example **£5,995**

16 SUZUKI Celerio 1.0 SZ2 5-Dr In white, 6,000 miles, "Free Road Tax" **£5,695**

15 MG3 Style VTi-Tech 1.5 In silver, 27,000 miles, alloys, bluetooth, DAB radio **£5,495**

62 CITROEN DS3 1.6 Style Black with white roof, 47,000 miles, 2 owners **£5,495**

61 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.7 Diesel CDTi SRi 5-Dr In red, 55,000 miles.....**£5,495**

60 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5-Dr In hot magenta, 42,000 miles, parking sensors etc.....**£5,495**

61 SEAT Ibiza SE Copa 1.4 3-Dr In silver, 41,000 miles, 1 owner, a/c etc **Reduced by £300 to£4,995**

60 MAZDA 3TS 1.6 5-Dr In electric blue, 58,000 miles, 2 owners, very nice example at .....**Reduced by £300 to £4,995**

13 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVTi Fire 5-Dr In met-orange, 34,000 miles, free road tax **£4,995**

13 SKODA Fabia SE 1.2 5-Dr In silver, 36,000 miles, alloys, low insurance **£4,995**

62 FIAT Punto 1.4 M-Air Lounge 3-Dr In metallic blue, 48,000 miles, twin glass roof **£4,995**

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60 FIAT 500 1.2 Sport, In electroclash grey, 41,000 miles, £30 road tax **£4,995**

09 FORD Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Zetec 5-Dr In met-silver, 42,000 miles, fantastic mpg.....**£4,795**

60 MINI Cooper 1.6 Diesel In black, fantastic mpg & free road tax.....**Excellent value £4,695**

12 HYUNDAI i10 Classic 1.2 In silver, 22,000 miles, 2 owners, a/c, etc **£4,495**

63 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Ecoflex S 3-Dr In white, 26,000 miles, £30 road tax **£4,495**

61 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique 5-Dr In ice blue, 51,000 miles, sat nav etc **£4,495**

10 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Exclusive 5-Dr In met grey, 81,000 miles .....**Reduced to £3,995**

13 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 Move VVTi 5-Dr In black, 54,000 miles, low insurance..... **£4,395**

62 HYUNDAI i10 Active 1.2 In silver, 55,000 miles, low insurance + road tax **£4,295**

61 FIAT 500 POP 1.2 In white, 50,000 miles, £30 road tax, low insurance..... **£4,295**

59 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5-Dr In met-blue, 70,000 miles with a/c..... **Reduced to £4,295**

59 FIAT 500 Lounge 1.2 In black, 38,000 miles, very nice example at **£4,295**

12 KIA Picanto 1.0 3-Dr In black, 47,000 miles, free road tax, low insurance **£3,995**

59 TOYOTA Auris 1.6TR 5-Dr In silver, 65,000 miles, 1 owner **£3,995**

09 MAZDA MX-5 1.8 Convertible In met-blue with a/c, leather + hard top, fantastic value **£3,995**

08 VW EOS 2.0 FSi In black, 83,000 miles 4-seater convertible **£3,695**

11 CITROEN C1 1.0 VT 3-Dr In red, 40,000 miles, low insurance **£3,295**

63 NISSAN Juke 1.5 DCi Acenta
In met-burgundy, 71,000 mile diesel, great value at
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The winning team.

Lovely day out for Cottrell Park ladies

ON Tuesday, September 11, a group of the ladies section from Cottrell Park Golf Club set off to Cumberwell Park in Bradford on Avon.

It was pouring with rain but as we reached the M4 the weather was glorious.

We had many laughs as one lady's trolley shot off across the course and another lady ran after it to catch it there were peels of laughter!

ABOVE LEFT: Judith Jessop and RIGHT: Margaret Rees.

The winning team with 80 points (best two scores out of four to count) were Chris Impey, Rose Dawson, Marian Hale and Maureen Bowen, with the second team - Lorraine Pointon Bell (lady captain), Margaret Rees, Carol Duncanson and Cheryl Hopkins - with 78 points

The individual Miss Button trophy was won by Margaret Rees with 35 points, with runner-up Judith Jessop.

There were two longest drives, won by Liz Overton and Rose Dawson, and nearest the pin was won by Patricia Roe.

Margaret Rees gave a vote of thanks to the lady captain for organising a wonderful day. **LPB**

Vale of Glamorgan Football League results round-up

BARRY Athletic continued their unbeaten run as they demolished Cowbridge Town 7-0.

Casey Thompson (2), Alex Lee, Josh Bell, Sean Andrews, Dylan Kinson and an own goal saw Athletic extend their lead at the top to five points, although they have played a game more than Rhoose.

Sully and Island Marine played out a 4-4 draw at Swanbridge while Barry Saints ran out 2-1 victors over Penarth Town at Cwrt Y Vil.

In Division One, Cadoxton Barry got back to winning ways after two defeats to see off Cardiff Airport 2-1 to go second. Cogan and Cadoxton Imps played out a 2-2 draw at The Rec.

In Division Two, St Athan B went second with a 6-1 victory over Barry Athletic B with Craig Howells scoring a hat-trick. Island Marine thumped Vale Madrid 5-0.

In the Barry Cup, there were three first round, almost provisional ties, to whittle the teams down to 16.

Holton Road thrashed SP Billy 6-0 to advance. Rhoose saw off Cwm Talwg 4-1 while Barry Vikings beat Barry Albion 6-2 to book places in the second round.

The tie of the second round looks certain to be Rhoose hosting Holton Road.

A full league programme returns this week. **HD**

Away day for St Mary's golfers

ST Mary's Golf Club's senior section's September Medal competition was rained off, but two days later 16 of their number enjoyed an away day at Bryn Meadows Golf Club.

The course was in very good condition with a good pace on the putting greens.

The order of the day was a Stableford competition with additional prizes for nearest the pin and for twos.

Section captain Hugh Williams continued his winning streak with back-to-back victories, settling for a par 36 points on this occasion.

However, this was somewhat less than his stellar 42 point total of the previous week.

Doug Mein was awarded second place after a count-back with Ainslie Adams, both players having carded 32 points.

Mein claimed the nearest to pin prizes on both the seventh and 13th holes and, with the only two of the day, Mein happily collected that prize also!

The remaining members of the section who hadn't travelled to Bryn Meadows played an individual Stableford competition on their home course.

Section scribe Norman Lloyd had a very forgettable front nine, but a birdie on the par five 11th and consecutive pars on the final four holes gave him a remarkable 24 points over the back nine, sufficient to leapfrog him into second place; Brian Peacock took the victory. **NL**

Seagulls benefit from the Farmers' visit over the Irish sea!

MEMBERS of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society recently returned from a visit to the Emerald Isles having played 54 holes at three different courses all attempting to win the David Evans (Agriculure) Ltd Trophy.

The Glamorgan Farmers ready to tee off their tour of Ireland.

After an early morning departure from the vale the sight of Penllyne club and trolley courier David Harris enjoying a hearty breakfast at a café in Mathry en route to Fishguard for the ferry to Rosslare set the scene for what proved a most enjoyable golfing break.

Based in Wexford on the recommendation of tour organiser Mike King the golf courses selected were within a short distance of the hotel allowing members ample time to give a major boost to the local economy by sampling the famous 'Black Stuff' associated with such adventures.

Day one of the tour gave members the opportunity of visiting Rosslare Golf Club a links course that over the years has hosted many prestigious tournaments.

Clive Thomas, with 33 stableford points, headed up the leaderboard after the first day followed by Bryan Owen, with 31 points, and Martyn Edwards 30 points.

Nearest the pins on the par-3 holes were Clive Thomas and Bryan Owen, who was successful on three of these holes.

Gareth Perkins hit the longest drive on the selected hole.

On day two a short journey to Enniscorthy provided members with the opportunity of playing another excellent parkland course and once again to receive a warm welcome from the hosting club.

The winner on day two was Chris Watson with 32 points followed by Martyn Edwards' 31 points and Gwyn Thomas who scored 28 points.

Nearest the pin on the par-3 holes was David Williams (2), Lyn Davies and Gareth Perkins with Tim Jarvis hitting the longest drive.

The final round of this 54-hole competition staged at Wexford Golf Club proved a tough challenge to many of the members who by now were showing distinct signs of fatigue.

Gareth Perkins, however, overcame any over indulgence to score 30 points, followed by Gwyn Thomas 29 and Mark Rees 28.

Nearest the pin on the par-3 holes were Lyn Davies, Clive Thomas, Bryan Owen (2) and also society captain Keith James who was delighted to collect a prize thought suitable for his wife Christine.

With all three rounds completed and scores checked by the very efficient competition secretary Tim Jarvis, Chris Watson was declared the overall winner with an aggregate score of 83 points followed by Martyn Edwards 82 points.

Gareth Perkins and Robbie Llewellyn both finished with 81 points. Julian Golunski correctly guessed 84 golf balls would remain across the Irish Sea resulting in 375 euros being collected and presented to representatives of the local Motor Neurone Disease Association who were staying at the same hotel for their annual conference.

Finally, as all tourists will know the time-honoured tradition of what 'goes on tour stays on tour' took on a new meaning for one society member who will obviously remain anonymous.

Having spent a considerable amount of time walking the streets and arcades of Wexford searching for the perfect present to take home the opportunity of purchasing a large portion of Irish smoked salmon and having it thermally sealed for the return journey was not to be missed. Unfortunately, leaving it in the refrigerator of the room after departing the hotel was not part of the plan but at least the seagulls around the refuse tip serving the area of Wexford are now enjoying a treat courtesy of one embarrassed Welshman!

Society members are now looking forward to their first ever visit to Garnant Golf Club scheduled for Thursday, September 27, to compete for the Arthur John Cup and one of the many prizes donated by generous sponsor Mr Dai John. **TMC**

Winning golfers Chris Watson, Martyn Edwards and Robbie Llewellyn with society captain Keith James and competition organiser Tim Jarvis.

When point-to-point came to the Vale - part five

ANOTHER extract from Brian Lee's long out of print book The Races Came Off.

In 1904, at the Aubrey Arms in Bonvilston, horses and riders were joined by motorists and cyclists from miles around, the occasion being the Glamorgan Hunt point-to-point fixture.

After the riders had been given their instructions they moved to Carmel Hill. The course around Pencarreg Farm was said to have been the hardest the riders had experienced since the races were first held.

For the second year running Tom Price's Black Fury won the heavyweight race after making all the running. Gerald Bruce's Darkie, a seven-year-old by Saucy Boy, captured the lightweight race.

The farmers' race, over a two mile course, was won by David Watts' aged Wynstay, ridden by Fred Williams, who was the official starter at Cardiff's Ely Racecourse.

Mr Williams was the father of Evan Williams, who was to win the Grand National on Royal Mail in 1937.

In 1905 Kirkland, trained at Lawrenny Park in Pembrokeshire, won the Grand National, and today remains Wales' only winner of the race.

The Glamorgan Hunt point-to-point this year were to have been held on March 16 which was a Thursday. But, owing to the grand jury of the Glamorgan Assizes having been summoned that day, the races were held over until Friday.

It was a sunny day and a large crowd gathered by a clump of trees on a mound about a quarter of a mile to the rear of St Nicholas Church near Bonvilston.

For the second year running, Gerald Bruce's Darkie won the lightweight race with the heavyweight race going to Major Edmunds' Caleb.

The Ystrad and Pentyrch enjoyed their most successful season in the history of the hunt. They held between 60 and 80 meets and killed 15 and a half braces of foxes. It was at the Ystrad and Pentyrch that William Tatem's Penylan Flyer won the heavyweight race.

Lord Glanely, as William Tatem was to become, was the leading owner on the Flat in 1919 and his Grand Parade won the Epsom Derby that year. Perhaps it was this success in point-to-point that made him turn his attention to racing.

He certainly spent huge sums of money into buying and breeding the best bloodstock available. Incidentally, Lord Glanely, who was killed during the last war in a bombing raid on Weston-super-Mare, is buried in Cathays Cemetery in Cardiff.

In the farmers' race, Mr D. Jones' Pentyrch Lad drew away from Lady Jane on the last bend to win easily. Later in the day a match between these two horses was arranged and it provided the same result.

**Brian Lee is the author of the best-selling Racing Rogues - The Scams, Scandals and Gambles of Horse Racing in Wales, published by St David's Press.*

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Cowbridge RFC storm into the second round of Bowl

IT was a week off from the league as Cowbridge travelled to Canton RFC for the first round of the WRU National Bowl competition.

Canton have had a good start to the season and a tough encounter was expected. Cowbridge kicked off on a warm, still afternoon and despite early pressure from the home side a penalty took Cowbridge up to the halfway.

A burst by Joe Davies released wing Rhidian Williams who offloaded to fellow wing Harry Thomas, who sprinted towards the line before a well-weighted pass sent full back Zac Summerhayes scampering over after just five minutes. Zac also converted.

It was already apparent that the pace of Cowbridge was gong to play a major part in this encounter and from the kick off, good work by the back row of Dan Holder, Tom Evans and Joe Davies advanced Cowbridge up to the 22.

The ball spun out to wing Rhidian Williams who left his opposite number grasping at thin air as he flew over in the corner, expertly converted by Summerhayes.

Determined to keep up the pressure Cowbridge attacked from the kick off with the pack driving up to the halfway, with the front five of Breed, Boxall, Bater, Darke and Keating leading the way.

However it was Canton who were next on the scoreboard as they managed to retrieve the ball and their right wing galloped over for a converted try.

Growing in confidence, Canton won a penalty from the kick off and their big pack were soon driving towards the Cowbridge line – to knock on inches out.

Veteran prop Dave Breed was replaced by young George Thomas and normal service was soon resumed as Holder secured lineout ball.

With half backs Adam Dix and Tom James controlling the game, Cowbridge ran from a penalty, James Darke and Hywel Williams took the ball on before Rhidian Willams sliced through the defence to hand over to Joe Davies, who brushed off the defending winger to score Cowbridge's third try. Summerhayes added the extras.

Cowbridge were soon back on the attack with a charge out of the 22, led, as ever, by hooker Craig Boxall.

The backs then took over and a clever chip over the defence was coolly collected by centre Hywel Williams to outstrip the defence from 30 metres. Summerhayes again converted.

To their credit Canton came straight back to score a try just before half-time to make it Canton 12, Cowbridge 28.

Cowbridge started the second half superbly as Holder collected the kick off for prop Jon Bater to drive up the middle.

The ball was spun out to Hywel Williams who broke down the blindside to transfer to Summerhayes, who took the ball into the 22 then passed to the effervescent Rhiddian Williams to cut a diagonal across the defence to touch down under the posts. No need to say who converted.

The next 10 minutes belonged to Canton and despite the usual non-stop defence, Canton crashed over for their third try.

The home side continued to pressurise from the kick but this time there was no way through as aggressive defence kept them at bay.

Following a brief lull in proceedings Cowbridge built up a head of steam and sensibly, Summerhayes kicked a penalty to calm things down.

With Hywel Jenkins replacing the impressive Tom Evans, the head of steam continued as Holder and Darke drove up the middle for brothers Hywel and Rhidian Williams, and the powerful Tom Harrison, to continue the attack which was finished off in style as Harry Thomas outstripped the defence. Naturally Summerhayes converted.

There was then a great moment as Adam Dix moved to centre for Tom Harrison and coach and father of the Williams brothers, Dan Williams, came on at scrum-half.

It was also good to see Geraint Thomas reluctantly join the fray for the first time since early last season, taking over from James Drake who had a stormer, along with fellow second row Matt Keating.

With seconds to go, a powerful drive from George Thomas ended with Hywel Jenkins galloping over from 15 metres. Zac Suumerhayes converted to make it seven out of seven, and a final score of Canton 19, Cowbridge 52.

You wouldn't have thought Cowbridge were missing some regulars as the whole squad contributed to an impressive win, scoring seven converted tries.

Despite being up against a much bigger pack the forwards were dominant in defence and attack, allowing the fleet-footed backs to score some outstanding tries.

The next round of the Bowl is on October 6 and the draw is yet to made, but this Saturday it's back to the league as we travel to Treharris, followed by Penarth at home on September 29.

,RV/RK

Cowbridge Bowling Club news

SATURDAY, September 8 saw the men's team ready to play their rearranged league game against Blaenrhondda, but the host team, as they had done previously, contacted Cowbridge two hours prior to the game to announce that their green was flooded.

No other date was arranged so this meant that Cowbridge only played 13 of the 14 games scheduled to be played in this league, which meant Cowbridge were denied the opportunity of moving up the league into third position.

On Sunday it was the big match – the ladies against the men for the Barwick Cup.

All six rinks were occupied in what was a most memorable and enjoyable afternoon of bowls and more than 50 members played (these included a number of substitutions).

After 18 ends, and a total of 864 bowls played (432 each team), there was no shot difference between the teams – both had recorded 107 shots, it was a draw!

However, the ladies had won on four of the rinks and the men on two rinks; consequently a decision was made to award the cup to the ladies for a year!

Mary Thomas, president, presented the cup to ladies captain Pat Holdsworth.

After the game all retired to the club house for a sumptuous tea.

Last Saturday the men played their last competitive Evening League triples of the season at home to Pencoed, and the result was a convincing home win.

Rink scores: John Collin, Mike Fahey and Alan Wallace 12-11; Tom Purnell, Ken Payne and Dennis Snelling 15-11; Tony Lewis, Colin Wilson and Norman Wilkinson 14-10; John Jones, Andrew Arkwright Morgan and Bob Penn 17-6. Match score: Cowbridge 58, Pencoed 38.

Following this result and earlier performances, Cowbridge are promoted to Division One in this competition.

For the last game of the season the men and ladies combined forces to play Llantwit Major in a mixed friendly at Llantwit, and this game took place last Wednesday.

Jan Lewis was captain for this match which was played over six rinks; Cowbridge did record a win on one rink.

The fine weather, as it has for most matches this season, played a big part in the overall enjoyment of the game as did the fine tea afterwards – thank you Llantwit Major.

This my closing report of the season and it is good to think back on the many good things of the 2018 season.

There was a good start as the recruitment drive was a success, and many new members have settled into the club.

The men's teams, in three main leagues, played a total of 48 games. The ladies teams, also in three main leagues, played 45 games.

Teams came together for a few mixed friendly matches, and more members joined in social bowls on Monday afternoons and the Friday social triples event was a big success.

There was also a record number of entries for the official triples competition.

All of this organization would not have run so smoothly without the care and attention of captains Bob Penn and Pat Holdsworth, their deputies, and the work undertaken by the whole committee – to all of them, many thanks.

Many members have signed up to play winter bowls at Sully, Bridgend and Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

MB

Youth team kick off season with victory

COWBRIDGE RFC youth got their league campaign underway with a hard-fought away win at Penarth.

Once again the boys made it difficult for themselves, receiving three second half yellow cards.

The boys played some great attacking rugby in the first half and showed great defence to hold out when down to 13 in the second half.

Jack Dixon scored first with a try in the far left-hand corner following a deft chip from the Cowbridge outside half, Ioan lewis.

The lineout was performing well and delivered quick ball for Lewis to put in a cross field kick deep into the Penarth 22.

Dixon out paced the covering Penarth defence and benefitted from a wicked bounce of the ball to touch down for Cowbridge's first try.

The team then produced their best team try of the season so far.

The boys showed great passing skills, moving the Penarth defence from one side of the pitch to the other three or four times.

They also showed excellent patience in waiting for the gaps to appear in the Penarth defence.

On the 10th phase of play, Ioan Lewis produced a huge pass off his left to his waiting captain, Barny Langton-Cryer, who was lurking on the right touch line.

Langton-Cryer stood the last defender up and put Iestyn Galton, the Cowbridge right winger, free to score without a Penarth defender in sight. Lewis converted the try from the right touchline.

At the 30-minute mark, apart from the kick-offs, Penarth had not managed to get into the Cowbridge half.

Cowbridge's third try came from a clean line break by their open side flanker Ben Jones.

Jones found himself the first man at the breakdown, saw a gap and made a break down the blindside.

With the covering defence approaching, he delivered a great hand-off to put himself clear. With just the fullback to beat, he took the contact and set up the resulting ruck.

With quick ball, the backs made the few simple passes for Galton to score in the far right hand corner for his second and the game's third try.

Penarth finally managed to get some territory inside the Cowbridge 22, after Cowbridge had conceded a number of penalties, Penarth took the three points by converting a penalty kick.

With the first half coming to an end, Cowbridge secured their try bonus point by scoring their fourth try via Max Cunnington.

Ellis Reed made a great turnover just on the half-way line, Cunnington was the first man at the breakdown.

Cunnington showed great initial speed off the mark to break through the first line of the Penarth defence.

Max then demonstrated he has the ability to keep that speed up by outpacing the covering Penarth defence to score a great individual try to make the half-time score Penarth youth 3, Cowbridge youth 22.

The second half began as the first had ended with Cowbridge on top. Straight from the kick-off the Cowbridge captain Barny Langton-Cryer made a huge tackle on his opposite number, sending a shudder through the crowd.

The game then began to change with the Cowbridge team being penalised at virtually every breakdown.

Following a number of penalties Cowbridge suffered their first yellow card when Ioan Lewis was penalised for a dangerous tackle close to their own line.

Even though Cowbridge showed exceptional defence they could not stop Penarth from scoring their first try in the far right-hand corner.

The penalty count kept climbing against Cowbridge at the breakdown, allowing Penarth to keep Cowbridge pinned inside their own 22.

The boys managed to keep Penarth out for the remaining minutes of Lewis' yellow card.

However, as soon as the team got back to 15 players, they received their second yellow card of the game when Ioan Williams was punished for not being back 10 yards following another Penarth tap penalty.

Penarth took advantage once again by moving the Cowbridge 14 players from one side of the pitch to the other.

Following another great defensive set, Cowbridge pushed the referee's patience once too often and he awarded Penarth a penalty try.

With the game entering its final stages Cowbridge were reduced to 13, when Jared Williams was penalised at the scrum and joined Williams in the in bin.

Cowbridge showed incredible discipline, fitness and determination to firstly, keep the penalty count down and secondly, stop Penarth from crossing their line.

With moments to go Cowbridge managed to turn the ball over and Lewis put Oran Harry, the Cowbridge outside centre, away.

Harry side-stepped his opposite number and made a bee-line for the Penarth line.

With the line within his sight Harry was brilliantly tackled by the covering Penarth defence. Back to a full complement of 15 players, Cowbridge spent the last few minutes of the game camped on the Penarth line.

To Penarth's defensive credit they did not let the Cowbridge team cross their line.

The referee ended the game with Cowbridge just inches short of the Penarth line, the final score Penarth youth 15, Cowbridge youth 22.

This Saturday the boys are due to play Rumney at home.

GJ

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, September 11, the new season of the Cowbridge Darts League got underway.

Last year's champions, the Edmondes B got off to a good start by defeating last year's runners-up Llanharry 7-2.

In this match, the season saw its first 100 or higher check-out, with Luke Richards (Edmondes B) hitting a 101 check-out.

It was a good night for the Highwayman Inn and the Edmondes A, both winning 8-1 by defeating respectively the Hairy Farmers and the Red Lion Inn.

The other two matches were much closer with the Six Bells Inn beating One Town Hall Square 5-4 and the Farmers Arms defeating the Edmondes C by the same score.

Notable performances in these games were Ryan Gratton (Six Bells Inn) with a 91 check-out and Freddie Hitchcock (One Town Hall Square) with a 76.

Present league standings are therefore: Edmondes A and Highwayman Inn (8 points), Edmondes B (7), Six Bells Inn and Farmers Arms (5), One Town Hall Square and Edmondes C (4), Llanharry (2), Hairy Farmers and Red Lion Inn (1) and Victoria Inn, who had a bye (0).

Next week, Tuesday September 25, we have the Fours knockout competition. All matches will be played at the Victoria Inn.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at *cowbridgedarts@gmail.com*, up-to-date information can be found on the website: *www.darts.apsn.co.uk*.

PJT